$10

The TV-TS

Tapestry

the journal for persons interested in crossdressing & transsexualism

FANTASIA FAIR '85

WIVES OF CROSSDRESSERS
Isolated and Misunderstood

UPDATED DIRECTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS

COMING EVENTS
PERSONAL LISTINGS
NEWS/BULLETINS

COMMUNICATION - or,
How To Make The World Hear Your Song

TRANSSEXUALISM:
Life After The Biggest Change of All

ISSUE 48

Wives Support Group, P-town Outing

The Problem of Employment

Learning to Live With Transvestism

Biography: On The Road to Brussels

A Little Understanding

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POLICIES:

1.) The TV-TS Tapestry Journal (a.k.a. 'The Tapestry') will support any individual, organization, or commercial enterprise that provides a valid service to the CD/TS/AN Community, and is not unethical, illegal or dangerous.

2.) Although sexually oriented organizations and services do provide a service and will be supported, it is understood that the Tapestry is intended to be neutral and acceptable to all. Therefore no sexually oriented ads, photos, or articles will be accepted for publication in the Tapestry.

3.) Single copies of the Tapestry will be provided free of charge to any non-profit organization or information distribution center. In exchange the Tapestry expects to receive any available newsletters, and permission to reprint any articles and information that is of interest and relevant to all. (The Tapestry will print only that information which will not endanger the security of the organization or its members, and will reflect favorably upon the organization.)

4.) The Tapestry will accept advertising and distribute information for non-profit organizations free of charge.

5.) The Tapestry will accept advertising from all legitimate commercial enterprises. Also, advertising will be accepted and information distributed free of charge on a reciprocal basis.

6.) Individual copies of the TV/TS Tapestry are $10.00

7.) Subscription rates for the Tapestry: Libraries and Helping Professionals $20.00 ($30.00 1st class), Regular Subscription $30.00, 1st Class Postage, Canada, Overseas (surface) $40.00, Overseas (air) $50.00 (U.S. Funds) ($10.00 of each subscription will be rebated to the non-profit organization of the subscriber's choice.)

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COVER ILLUSTRATION: by Stephanie Barry (MA-0800)

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EDITORIAL

. . . . THE FASHION ARGUMENT

by

Merissa Sherrill Lynn

In this issue I have accepted no less than five items that contain the argument, "It's all-right for women to wear pants, but not all-right for men to wear dresses, and that's not fair," or something to that effect. I have rejected another half-dozen articles and at least three cartoons that contain that same theme. The argument implies that, "If you can wear pants, then I ought to be able to wear dresses." My reaction to that is, to quote Joan Rivers, "Oh please!!"

Women wearing man-styled women's clothing and men wearing women's clothing are two different issues. Men wearing feminine men's clothing and men wearing women's clothing are also two different issues. In fact, this "fashion argument" has no relevance to the issue of cross-dressing. However, it does have relevance to tolerance and respect - which is a human, not a cross-dressing issue. For instance, for a masculine female or feminine male to fight for the right to be themselves without fear of social reprisal is one thing. That's humanism, a fight for political, economic, and emotional equality. But...it is not transvestism. However, transvestites can also fight for the right to be themselves. That is also a humanistic issue, not a transvestite issue.

I call the "women can wear pants, but men can't wear dresses" argument the "Fashion Argument". However, it should be understood that the vast majority of women who wear man-tailored clothing, or even men's clothing do not do so in order to pass themselves off as men. They do so because it happens to be in style, or it's practical, or some other comparable reason. On the other hand, men who wear women's clothing usually do so because it's a sexual turn-on, or emotionally or sensually rewarding, and often to pass themselves off as women. In other words, humanism/equality and transvestism are apples and oranges, two

fundamentally different issues. To use one to justify the other is a bogus argument, and most people see it as such.

There is an article in this issue of the Tapestry that addresses itself to compassion and understanding, then degenerates into a lengthy discussion of fashion trends and the evolution of silk stockings. The article then talks of how men once wore ruffles and frills, and that was OK, until fashion mores turned conservative and said it was not OK. I'm sure in the days when men had the freedom to be as fluffy and feminine as they wanted, there was still an abundant supply of men who enjoyed wearing women's clothes for its own reward, and didn't give a tooter's hoot about wearing fluffy and frilly men's clothes.

The point is that it doesn't matter what the fashion trends are, were, or will be. Men who cross-dress want to wear women's clothing, not woman-styled men's clothing.

In another article, the author uses several paragraphs to illustrate how women can wear elegant sensual clothing, and can wear pants or slacks,

and how men cannot wear sensual clothing and dresses. Then the author goes on to illustrate how feminine men's clothing marks one to be a homosexual or playboy. Then the author goes into the religious ethic and masculine superiority, then into a social reaction of fear and anger. The good thing is the author clearly points out the root of society's hang-ups. The bad thing is we're back to the implication that if women can wear pants, men ought to be able to wear women's clothing, which means we're back to apples and oranges, two fundamentally different issues.

In Virginia Prince's fine book 'Understanding Crossdressing', Virginia avoids one of the primary reasons people cross-dress (sex), yet talks about how natural it is for men to want to be flamboyant. She backs that up by talking about how in nature the male is usually the more flamboyant of the species (i.e. the male peacock, etc.), then about how in human history men used to wear the baubles and bangles and ruffles and all that other superfluous regalia. Then she ties the male instinct to show off and be fancy to cross-dressing. No question, many men have an instinct towards exhibitionism, and thoroughly enjoy getting all dolled up and fancy. However, we are once again back to apples and oranges. What's in fashion for men's wear and the desire to cross-dress are two different issues. Prince Charles and General Westmoreland may love their bright shiny buttons, pretty decorations, and cute little ribbons, but that doesn't make them transvestites.

Do not confuse fashion trends with the desire to emulate the opposite sex, and NEVER use fashion as an argument to justify cross-dressing in public. In my mind, using that kind of an argument to justify cross-dressing (or to point out some social injustice aimed at cross-dressers) is nothing more than a rationalization, an attempt to make one's proclivities socially acceptable, and has nothing to do with the price of skirts in Boston. What's even worse is it gives away too much power to other people. In effect you are asking other people for permission to be as you prefer to be.

If your own peace of mind becomes dependent on other people's acceptance, you've lost the battle. The trick is to accept yourself. Then, if other people can't accept you that's their problem, not yours. Then you can fight for the real issues - tolerance and respect....and that means tolerance and respect for everyone, including women who want to be masculine, men who want to be feminine, and cross-dressers. Once you have self respect, and you still want to use the "women/pants-yes, men/dresses-no" argument to point out a larger social discrepancy, then be my guest. I will also stand and fight with you.

Another element of the 'fashion' argument is there seems to be a trend towards a unisexual androgynous society where everyone could wear what they want. I'm all for people wearing what they want, but I fear a unisexual androgynous society like that would bore me to death. Personally, I like the differences between men's fashions and women's fashions, and I especially like being able to experience and enjoy both. Again, I like the difference between men and women. I REALLY like the difference.

You could say I have an above average appreciation for women, both as people and for their mode of being. I like the way they are, the way they dress, the way they act, talk, and feel. In fact, I like women so much that I wish I were one - from time to time. I also love the way I feel when I dress in women's clothes. I'm sure most men who cross-dress feel similar. Our proclivities and search for tolerance has virtually nothing to do with fashion trends, or feminine male clothing, or whether or not a male duck is prettier than a female duck. It has to do with self-acceptance, pride, and our demand for basic human respect.

In Summary: The "fashion" argument is not a cross-dressing issue. It is a humanistic issue, a fight for human tolerance and respect, a fight I will support until I die. However, it is a bogus argument when it comes to cross-dressing in public.

The fashion argument and cross-dressing are unrelated for three reasons: First, women do not wear pants in public to pass as men. So, comparing women's ability to wear masculine clothing to men's right to

dress as women is a false comparison. Second, dresses for men and feminine men's wear are already available and in fashion, so if a man wants to express his femininity as a man he may do so. (The difference is men who want to express their femininity as men, and men who want to express their femininity as women are two entirely different issues.) Third, and most importantly, male cross-dressers do not want to wear men's dresses, they want to wear women's dresses, and most want to pass as women if they can. If a man wants to be feminine in public without fear, that's one thing, but, if a man wants to wear women's clothes in public, that's something else altogether. The only similarity is being able to express oneself in public without fear.

My biggest complaint with the "fashion" argument is that it is nothing more than a rationalization, an attempt to make one's proclivities socially acceptable. We should not be looking for social acceptance. We are who and what we are, and that's OK, and that's what counts! So long as we accept ourselves it doesn't matter if others accept us. Asking other people to accept us is like asking somebody else's permission to live, and that's dehumanizing. We should not be asking, we should be demanding, as is our right as human beings, tolerance and respect.

Finally, if you see your wife, or girlfriend, or any woman wearing jeans, or a sweatshirt, or any article of men's clothing, and you feel inclined to say, "Well, if you can wear men's clothing, then I can wear women's clothing," you had better be sure she is wearing that clothing for the same reason you are wearing women's clothing. If she is, you have an argument. If she isn't, you don't.

Merissa Sherrill Lynn

THE LADIES PREPARE FOR A SHOPPING TRIP, DOWNTOWN PROVINCETOWN

COMING EVENTS

CALENDAR OF
MAJOR EVENTS 1986

April 15 - 20, 1986: Shangri-La in Biloxi MS
May 1 - 4, 1986: Windy City Chapter Spring Fling, Chicago IL
May 16 - 18, 1986: Joyce Dewhurst's Poconos Outing
May 27 - June 2, 1986: Tiffany's Spring Outing in Provincetown, MA
May 27 - 31, 1986: Tapestry Annual Convention, Provincetown, MA
June 27 - 29, 1986: Shangri-La West in S. CA.
September 19 - 21, 1986: Joyce Dewhurst's Poconos Outing
October 3 - 5, 1986: Tiffany Wives Support Group Outing, P-town
October 17 - 26, 1986: 12th annual Fantasia Fair, P-town
March 1987: (Exact date pending) 1st annual International Convention sponsored by the International Foundation for Gender Education

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New England

** TIFFANY CLUB **
(Open, non-sexual) Box 19, Wayland MA 01778 (617)358-2305
Open Rap Group: Each Tuesday, 8 - 11 p.m.
Open Meetings: Casual get-togethers 7pm each Saturday
Wives Support Group: First Friday each month
Transsexusl Support Group: Third Wednesday each month
Educational Programs: Topics of specific interests (legal, medical, political, etc). irregularly scheduled
Personal Improvement Classes: (make-up, comportment, wardrobe, etc.) irregularly scheduled
Sundays: Evenings out on the town. Patricia Anne Ashley, organizer
Valentines Party: Saturday, February 15, 1986
St Patrick's Party: Saturday, March 15, 1986
Spring Open House: Saturday, April 19, 1986
Cross-dresser's Convention, P—town: May 27 - June 2, 1986
Couples' P-town Outing: October 3 - 5, 1986

TRANSSEXUAL SOCIAL ASSOCIATION
(Rhode Island, Transsexual Support) T.S.A., P.O. Box 5753, Weybosset Hill Station, Providence, R.I. 02903
Meetings: Irregularly scheduled

** HARRIET LANE'S TV SET **
(Connecticut, open) Harriet Lane, Box 4002 Yalesville Sta., Wallingford CT 06492 (203) 237-1968
Parties: The 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. The 2nd Saturday is non-sexual, and the 4th Saturday anything goes. $10 per person, $15 per couple, food served, cash bar.

** XX (TWENTY) CLUB **
(Connecticut, transsexual support) XX Club, Box 6070 Sta. 'A', Hartford CT 06106 (203)522-2646
Meetings: 2pm the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month.

** CONN. CHAPTER - GGA **
(Connecticut, Open, non-sexual) Box 744, Branford, CT 06405
Meetings: 1st and 3rd Saturday each month

New York

** NYC GGA CHAPTER **
(Open, non-sexual) Muriel Olive, Penthouse B, 157 W 57th St., , NYC NY 10019 (212)582-6823
Meetings: 3rd Saturday of each month

** JOYCE DEWHURST **
BETTER LIVING INSTITUTE
(NYC, open, parties, special programs) B.L.I., c/o Joyce Dewhurst, 37-50 76 St, Jackson Heights, NY 11372 (212)335-3048
Spring Pocono Fantasy Festival: May 16 - 18, 1986
Fall Pocono Fantasy Festival: September 19 - 21, 1986

** LEE'S MARDI GRAS **
(Social) Lee's Mardi Gras , 565 10th Ave., NYC NY 10036 212-947-7773
Parties: 1986 schedule not available

** EULENSPIEGEL SOCIETY **
(NYC, For those with S/M & B/D fantasies) The Eulenspiegel Society, Box 2783 Grand Central Sta., NYC, NY 10163 (212) 477-6588
Functions: Frequent events specifically oriented for the TV. Inquire for times & location.

** AS A WOMAN **
(NYC, Open, Non-sexual) c/o B. Fortune, Box 369, Brooklyn, NY 11235 718-852-44290
Meetings: First Saturday of each month

** LONG ISLAND SOCIAL CLUB **
(Open, non-sexual) Kay & Ursula Kwarta, 50 Sunny Rd, St. James, NY 11780 (516) 584-7736
Meetings: 4th Saturday of each month

** CHI DELTA MU (TRI ESS)**
(Metro NY, Closed, heterosexual) L. Frank, Box 9192, Morristown, NJ 07960 (201) 663-0772
Meetings: 2nd Saturday of each month, locations vary.

** TV ENTERTAINERS GROUP **
(Open, non-sexual) TV Entertainers, 266 Jefferson St, Albany, NY 12210 518-463-7774
Meetings: 7 p.m. the 2nd Sataturday each month at 226 Jefferson St., Albany, NY

** THE BUTTERFLY GROUP **
(Western NY, Open, Non-sexual) PO Box 7161, Endicott, NY 13760, Sharon Michaels, Pres.
Open Meetings: 2nd Friday and 4th Saturday each month
Butterfly Couples Club: Rotating schedule

** 'EON' **
(Open, non-sexual) Eon, PO Box 6293, Camillus, NY 13031
Meetings: Inquire for time and location

New Jersey, Pennsylvania

** PHI CHAPTER (GGA) **
(South NJ, SE PA, N DE, NE MD, Open, Non-Sexual) c/o W. Beeman, P.O. Box 4128, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
Meetings: 4th Saturday of each month (Sep-Jun)
Wives & Lovers: Irregularly scheduled events for members and their wives and spouses.

** NORTHERN N.J. GGA **
(Northern NJ, Open, non-sexual) E. Malley, P.O. Box 9034, Morristown, NJ 07960
Meetings: 1st Saturday of each month (Sep-Jun)

** NORTHERN NJ SOCIAL GROUP **
(Open, non-sexual) L. Frank, Box 9192, Morristown, NJ 07960 (201) 663-0772
Meetings: last Saturday of each month

** TRANSPITT **
(Social, open, non-sexual) Transpitt, PO Box 59406, Pittsburgh, PA 15211
Meetings: the 3rd Saturday of each odd-numbered month.

Mid Atlantic

** DELTA CHI CHAPTER (GGA) **
(Baltimore - DC, open non-sexual) Sandy Machin, Box 11254, Lincolnia Sta., Alexandria VA 22312
Meetings: 1st Saturday of each month (Sep-Jun)

** NORFOLK TS GROUP **
(Transsexual Support) Donna Johnston, Box 1923, Norfolk, VA 23501
Meetings: Schedule unavailable

** MY CHOICE **
(Baltimore, Transsexual Support) Kathy Stevens, 1417 McHenry St, Baltimore, MD 21223
Meetings: 2nd Friday each month

** ACADEMY AWARDS **
(Baltimore - Wash. DC, Theatrical Drag) c/o B.A. Lind, Box 11254, Alexandria, VA 22312
Functions: Inquire for events, times, and locations

** BALTIMORE-DC (GGA) **
(Baltimore - Wash. DC, open non-sexual) R. Lewis, P.O. Box 7644, Silver Spring, MD 20907
Meetings: 4th Saturday of each month (Sep-Jun)

** JANUS/DC **
(Washington DC, Transsexual Support) Janus/DC Inc., 5715 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20011 Gene Baker, Advisor, Marty Malin, President
Meetings: 4th Thursday each month

South

** THE ELITE TV CO. **
(Georgia, Open) Gigi Grant, P.O. Box 47686, Atlanta, GA 30362
Meetings: Inquire for time & location

** MONTGOMERY FOUNDATION, INC. **
(Atlanta, Transsexual Support) The Montgomery Foundation Inc., PO Box 33311, Decatur, GA 30033
Meetings: Twice a month. Inquire for times and locations

** SERENITY **
(Open, non-sexual) Nikki Bee, Box 307, Hollywood, FL 33022
Meetings: 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month at the Metropolitan Community Church, 330 S.W. 27th St., Ft. Lauderdale.

** BUTTERNUT BELLES (AND GUYS) **
(Open) Butternut Belles, Box 3585, Knoxville, TN 37917 call Wendy 524-1629 (7 - 9 p.m.
Meetings: Schedule unavailable

** BOULTON & PARK **
CULTURAL SOCIETY
(Texas, Open, Non-sexual) Boulton & Park Society, c/o Ms Mary Frances Williams, Box 169652, San Antonio, TX 78280-3252
Meetings: 3rd Saturday each month

** GENDER DYSPHORIA CENTER **
(Galveston, transsexual support) Alice (713) 763-6227
Meetings: 1st Saturday each month except July, August & September

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Midwest

** WINDY CITY CHAPTER (GGA) **
(Chicago, open non-sexual) Sharon Renee Hart, Box 2312, Chicago IL 60690 (312) 472-4518
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of every month
Miss GGA Contest: Saturday, Feb. 15, Opal Station 6655 N. Clark, Chicago
Spring Fling Chicago GGA Convention: May 1-4 1986, Chicago

** CHI CHAPTER (TRI ESS) **
(Illinois, closed heterosexual) Mary Ann Broer, Box 2055, Des Plaines IL 60018
Meetings: 3rd Saturday of each month

** CROSSROADS CHAPTER **
(Michigan, open non-sexual) Crossroads Chapter, Box 449, Utica, MI 48087-0449
Meetings: Usually 1st Saturday each month, but double-check for time and location

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** PARADISE CLUB **
(Ohio, open non-sexual) Paradise Club, Box 29564, Parma, OH 44129
Meetings: 3rd Saturday of each even numbered month.

** GENESIS **
(Open, non-sexual) Genesis, PO Box 954. Elyria, OH 44036
Meetings: Inquire for time and location

** CROSS-PORT **
(Cincinnati, Open, Non-sexual) Cross-Port, 2020 "B" Beechmont Ave, P.O. Box 150, Cincinnati, OH 45230 ATTN: HEATHER
Meetings: Inquire for time and location

** IOWA/ILLINOIS CHAPTER (GGA) **
(Eastern Iowa, Western Illinois, Open, Non-sexual) Connie Farwell, c/o Box 1205, Bettendorf, IA 52722
Meetings: Inquire for time & location

** WISCONSIN NETWORK **
(Open to gay and bi- men and women as well as TVs and TSs, non-sexual) Dee Dailey, P.O. Box 632, Waukesha, WI 53187 (414) 542-5735
Meetings: 4th Wednesday of each month

** CITY OF LAKES **
CROSSDRESSER'S CLUB
(Open, Non-sexual) CLCC, c/o A.Y. Cowell, 3917 France Ave., South Minneapolis, MN 612-920-3316
Meetings: Inquire for time and location

Intermountain

** THE GENDER IDENTITY CENTER **
OF COLORADO, INC.
(Association, affiliation, information and education serving the cross-dresser and gender conflicted and their significant others) GIC, 2715 W. 32nd Ave, P.O. Box 80211, Denver CO 80211, 303-458-5378
Monday: 7:00 PM Open Rap
Alternate Tuesdays: 7:30 PM TAKOTS (TeenAge Kits of T's) Open Rap
1st & 3rd Wednesday: 7:30 PM Spouses Rap Group
Last Wednesday: 5:30 PM Staff Meeting
Thursday: 10:00 AM Open Rap
Thursday: 7:00 PM Women in Transition
Saturday: 10:00 AM Open Rap
Saturday: 12:00 Noon F-M Open Rap
TV Socials: By invitation
Parent's Group: By special arrangement
Workshops: Every other month throughout the year
Seminars: Helping Professionals & Significant Others, offered on a Saturday in February, and again in September
JUNE 1987: GIC sponsored trip to HBIGDA Symposium in Sweden, and tour of Scandinavian gender clinics.

Southwest

** SPECTRUM **
(Arizona, open, non-sexual) P.O. Box 14671, Phoenix AZ 85063
Meetings: Inquire for time & location

** TRANSITION CLUB **
(Nevada, open, non-sexual) c/o TC Onekea, Box 42454, Las Vegas, NV 89116 731-5814 (ask for TC)
Meetings: Inquire for time & location

California

** SOCIETY FOR THE SECOND SELF **
(TRI ESS)
(Chapters nation-wide, closed, heterosexual) Carol Beecroft, Box 194, Tulare CA 93275
Alpha Chapter: (Los Angeles) Inquire
Sigma Delta Chapter: (San Diego) Inquire

** CHIC (CROSSDRESSER **
HETEROSEXUAL INTERSOCIAL CLUB
(Closed, heterosexual) CHIC, Box 562, Duarte CA 91010 (213)456-6511
Meetings: 3rd Saturday of each month

** SHANGRI-LA CLUB **
(National membership, open non-sexual) Nancy Watson, Box 19202, Irvine CA 92713
Scyros Chapter: 1st Saturday of each month
Shangri-La '86: April 15-20, 1986
Shangri-La West: June 27-29, 1986

** NEUTRAL CORNER**
(Open non-sexual) W. Thomas, Box 99732, San Diego CA 92109
Meetings: Inquire first

** GATEWAY GENDER ALLIANCE **
(GGA)
(Chapters throughout North America, open non-sexual) GGA, 484 Lake Parke Ave., Suite 427, Oakland, CA 94610 (415) 763-6185
San Francisco: 2nd Wednesday each month 8pm
San Jose: 8pm 1st and 3rd Friday each month
Santa Rosa: 1st Friday and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2525 Cleveland Ave. (707) 526 2500
Sacramento Chapter: 2nd Friday of each month. Write: Bonnie Goodwin, Box 38918, Sacramento CA 95838

** PACIFIC CENTER **
(Community Services for sexual minorities) P.O. Box 908, Berkeley, CA 94701 (408) 841-6224
Meetings: Rap sessions the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month
Special Topic or Speaker: Last Friday of each month

** EDUCATIONAL TV CHANNEL **
(ETVC)
(San Francisco, Open, Non-sexual) Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101
Meetings: Last Thursday of each month

FEMALE TO MALE TRANSSEXUAL GROUP
(Support for F-M TSs) The Billy DeFrank Community Center, 86 Keyes Ts., San Jose, CA (408) 293-4525
Meetings: Every Wednesday 7-9 pm

** SOCIETY OF JANUS **
- SACRAMENTO GROUP
(For persons interested in B&D) Society of Janus - Sacramento Group, c/o P.O. Box 6794, San Francisco, CA 94101
Meetings: Schedule not available

Northwest

** NORTHWEST CHAPTER-PORTLAND **
(GGA)
(open, non-sexual, Box 13173, Portland OR 97213
Meetings: Inquire for time & location

** SALMACIS **
SHE-MALE INFORMATION NETWORK
(West Coast Drag Events)
(Drag) Leslie-Shawn, c/o Salmacis, Dept. G, Box 1604, Eugene, OR 97440-1604
Events:
Feb. 22, 1986: "Coronation 1986" at the Galleria, San Francisco

Feb. 22, 1986: "Miss Heart of Oregon" in Eugene, Oregon. Inquire for details.
Feb. 28 - Mar. 2, 1986: "An Evening in Paradise" in Salem, Oregon. Inquire for details.
Mar. 22, 1986: "Carnival '86" in Washington. Inquire for details.
May 3rd, 1986: "Coronation '86, Fantasies and Fairy Tales: A Springtime Affair", Seattle, WA. Inquire for details.
May 9 - 11, 1986: "Prince and Princess Ball, A Return to Avalon", Eugene, OR. Inquire for details.
May 25, 1986: "Coronation '86, Around The World In 80 Days" at the Salt Palace, Salt Lake City, UT.
Salmacis Society Workshop: 5-day workshop in Eugene, OR. Theme: costuming, deportment, posture, make-up & personality projection. Inquire for details.

** EMERALD CITY **
(Open, non-sexual) Emerald City, Box 31318, Seattle WA 98103
Meetings: Inquire for time & location

** SEATTLE COUNSELING SERVICE **
(TV/TS Support group, non-sexual) Seattle Counseling Service, 1505 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98122
Meetings: Every Friday 8-10 p.m.

SEATTLE TV/TS SUPPORT GROUP
(Open) Seattle Counseling Service, 1505 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98122 206-329-8737
Meeting: Every Friday, 8 - 10 p.m.

** SEXUAL IDENTITY CENTER **
(Hawaii) 2139 Kuhio Ave, Honolulu, HI 96813 926-1000
Meetings: Discussion group, 7:30, every Tuesday

Canada

** TRANSVESTITES AU MONTREAL ** (TAM)
(Open, non-sexual) CP 1164 Succ H, Montreal, Que Can H3G-2N1 514-352-7481
Meetings: 2nd Saturday 2:00pm, and 4th Thursday 7:30pm.

** QUEBEC **
TRANSSEXUAL AID, INC.
(Transsexual support, French speaking) Viviane Audrey, C.P. 691, Mont-Royal Quebec, Canada H3P-3E4
Meetings: Schedule unavailable

** FACT **
(FEDERATION OF AMERICAN AND CANADIAN TRANSSEXUALS)
FACT, Box 291, Sta. 'A', Hamilton Ont Can L8N-3C8 416-539-7884
Meetings: 2nd Friday of each month, visitors welcome

** FACT - TORONTO **
(Transsexual Support) FACT-Toronto, P.O. Box 97, Lefroy, ON CAN L0L 1W0 or: FACT-Toronto, c/o 519 Church St., Community Centre, 519 Church St., Toronto, ON CAN M4Y 2C9
Meetings: Schedule unavailable
Octoberfest: October 18, 1985 at 'The 519'

** METAMORPHOSIS **
MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION
(Support for the F-M transsexual) Box 5963, Sta. 'A', Toronto Ont Can M5W-1P4
Meetings: Inquire for time & location
3rd Annual General Meeting: Saturday, April 26, 1986, 2 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. (Inquire for location.

** ALBERTA TV-TS CONTACT CLUB **
(Calgary, Open) Alberta TV & TS Contact Club, P.O. Box 4667 Stn. C, Calgary AL CAN T2T 5P1
Meetings: Schedule unavailable

GREAT BRITAIN

** BEAUMONT SOCIETY **
(Closed, heterosexual) Beaumont Society, Box 3084, London England WC1N-3XX
London: First Wednesday each month
Brighton: First Saturday each month
Woking: Inquire for time and location
Woodford Green: Inquire for time and location
King's Langley: Third Saturday each month
Braintree: Third Wednesday each month
Harlow: Practically any time - by arrangement
Cambridge: Second Saturday each month
Luton: Every Saturday
Eye: Every Tuesday

** SHAFT **
(SELF HELP ASSOCIATION FOR TRANSSEXUALS)
(Transsexual support, non-sexual) SHAFT, 46 Liddell Way, South Ascot, Berkshire, England SL5-9UX
Meetings: Inquire for time & location

** FRIEND MERSEYSIDE **
(Closed, heterosexual) 14 Colquitt St., Liverpool, L1-4DI England (051)708-0234
Meetings: Fridays 8pm onwards

** THE TV/TS SOCIAL GROUP **
(Open, non-sexual) 274 Upper St., Islington, London N.1. England 01-359-4868 (Fri, Sat, Sun 8-10pm)
Meetings: Every Saturday and Sunday from 7:30 to 11:00pm, at the above address

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** SCOTTISH TV/TS GROUP **
(Open, non-sexual) Scottish TV/TS Group, c/o SHRG 58a Broughton St., Edinburgh, EH1 35A Scotland (031) 556-4049
Meetings: Last Saturday each month

EUROPE

** TRANS-CCL **
(France, support for sexual minorities) Rev. Joseph Douce, Centre du Christ Liberateur, Minorites Sexuelles, TRANS-CCL, 3 bis, rue Clairaut, 75017 Paris - France (1) 226-7048 (also, help line Mon. 8-10pm [1] 627-4936) (Rev. Douce speaks English)
Meetings: 8pm, 2nd Tuesday of each month
Dinner: 5th Saturday of the month (4 times a year)

** ASSOCIATION BEAUMONT ** CONTINENTALE
(France, closed membership, heterosexual) Gaby Linsig,

2 Rue des Charpentiers, 68270 Wittenheim, France
Meetings: Schedule not available

** F.P.E. **
(Denmark, closed membership, heterosexual) M.A. Postboks 192, DK2600, Glostrup, Denmark (do not put F.P.E. on envelope)
Meetings: Schedule not available

** FEMME TRAVESTIE **
(Switzerland, inquire for membership qualifications) Femme Travestie, 8023 Zurich, Postfach 6788, Switzerland
Meetings: Schedule not available, but very active

FAR EAST, AUSTRALIA

** ELIZABETH CLUB **
(Japan, open) Ant Trading Co., Sakata Bldg, 1-12 Iwamoto-Cho Kanda, Chiuoda-Ku, Tokyo 101, Japan
Meetings: No schedule available. Private facilities in Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya

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** SEAHORSE CLUB **
(Australia, affiliated with England's Beaumont Society)
Seahorse Victoria (Melbourne) GPO Box 2337V, Melbourne, Victoria, 3001 Australia
Social Evenings: 2nd Saturday of each month
The Seahorse Club of Australia (Sydney) Box R341, Royal Exchange, Sydney 2000, Australia - Meetings: Last Friday of each month
National Seahorse Club of Australia (Adelaide) write: Lynda Allion, P.O. Box 89, Norwood, South Australia 5067 - meeting schedule unavailable

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** HEDESTHIA **
(New Zealand, affiliated with England's Beaumont Society) Ms J.F. Gall (National Secretary), Hedesthia Central, P.O. Box 78-026, Grey Lynn, Auckland 2 New Zealand
Meetings: Schedule unavailable

VACATIONS

** TIFFANY'S ANNUAL **
PROVINCETOWN OUTING
(Cape Cod, open non-sexual) The Tiffany Club, P.O. Box 19, Wayland, MA., 01778 (617)358-5575
Traditionally held the week after Memorial Day: Annual 3 to 6 day event held each Spring in Provincetown, MA. This is the 'Club Med Vacation' for Crossdressers and friends. There are unlimited activities available in a friendly sea-side community.

There are 3 and 6 night packages available.

** TAPESTRY PUBLICATIONS **
and NACD INC. ANNUAL CONVENTION
(Provincetown, Cape Cod) Tapestry, PO Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778 617-358-5575
Held concurrently with Tiffany's P-town Outing: The Convention is for a) all persons interested in the development of the 'Tapestry' as an effective outreach tool and unifying factor for the TV-TS Community, and b) NACD Inc., the TV-TS Community's own investment corporation.

**THE 'BE ALL YOU WANT TO BE' **
WEEKEND
(Michigan, for members of Crossroads Chapter, Chi Chapter, Paradise Club, TransPitt, Genesis) Mary Ann Broer, Box 2055, Des Plaines, IL 60018
Traditionally held the 2nd weekend of June: An annual weekend outing held in early June in Michigan. The outing has a schedule of events that includes a legal seminar, a behavior seminar, a fashion clinic, etc.

** DREAM **
(Oregon, open, non-sexual) DREAM, Box 58, 507 3rd Ave., Seattle WA 98104
September: Semi-annual high quality 7-day event held in the fall near Portland Oregon. Features condominiums, and a 5-day fashion/beauty course. Last held September 1983. Probable next date: September 1986.

** SHANGRI-LA **
(open, non-sexual) Nancy Watson, Box 18202, Irvine, CA 92713
June 27-29, 1985, Annual 3-day event held in Stallion Spring, California (Next year's dates are June 27-29)
April 15-20, 1986: Annual 6-day event held in Biloxi, MS on the beach 85 miles from exciting New Orleans

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** SPRING FLING IN CHICAGO **
NATIONAL GGA CONVENTION
(Chicago, Open, Non-sexual) Sharon Hart, PO Box 2312, Chicago, IL 60690 312-472-4518
April 17 - 20, 1986: Annual conference sponsored by the Windy City Chapter of the Gateway Gender Alliance.

** JOYCE DEWHURST'S **
POCONOS FANTASY WEEKEND
Joyce Dewhurst, 37-50 76th St., Jackson Heights, NY 11372 718-335-3048
Traditionally held the 3rd Weekend of May, and the 2nd Weekend of September: Annual 3-day outings in the picturesque Poconos mountains of Pennsylvania.

** TIFFANY CLUB **
WIVES SUPPORT GROUP
PROVINCETOWN OUTING
(Cape Cod, non-sexual, Male-Female Couples Only) Tiffany Club Wives Support Group, PO Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778 617-358-5575
Traditionally held the 1st Weekend of October: Annual outing designed for couples in established relationships.

** FANTASIA FAIR **
(Cape Cod, Open, Non-sexual) Eve Goodwin, Dept FF, Box 368 Kenmore Station, Boston, MA 02215
October 18 - 27, 1985: Annual 9-day event held each Fall in Provincetown, MA. F/F offers a wide selection of educational, social, and outdoor activities for all particpants.

TAPESTRY MAILBAG

Dear Editor

I just finished reading your editorial on "Religion" from issue #47, and felt moved to respond. Allow me to introduce myself. I am a psychologist in private practice and direct a psychotherapy training institute, and in this capacity have become quite concerned in the last several years over the kinds of training that therapists in our culture are receiving. I am particularly interested in the spiritual development of trainees and its relationship to the nature of their work and to their notions and opinions of their clients' life experience. So, when I read your editorial describing cross-dressing as a religious experience, I wanted to support you by underlining these ideas as one of the most significant self-healing statements that we as human beings can promote in any area of life expression. for, I believe it is when we come to accept and understand all of our life expression and experience as a participation with God that we begin taking a true, loving responsibility for what we create in this world, and we begin creating a truly loving and responsible world. It all begins inside me, and how I experience myself is ultimately a religious experience. Thus all experience is a religious experience, whether it be one of harmony or strife. god is present in both sides. The difference is that when we are in harmony with ourselves we know the presence of God and we can begin to create with God a more loving planet. When we live in disharmony with ourselves, we've put this disharmony between ourselves and our knowing God; and thus, we cannot create with God. This is to me the ultimate goal of psychotherapy--to live in harmony with oneself and to uplift oneself to the harmonious co-creation with God.

and to me, it all begins with the acceptance of our individual experience and expression. I wish to go even further and suggest that those individuals in any society who experience and express a nature that is different from their surrounding culture have within them a special opportunity to know God more quickly and more intimately. I believe that cross-dressing allows for the person who so chooses to find inner peace and harmonious outer living to an extraordinary degree. I couldn't agree with you more that it is the height of conceit to place yourself above anyone or anything else in this world and that this is the essential disruption in troubled living, and the essential ingredient in emotional and psychical dis-ease. Thus I believe that the single most significant transformation possible for an individual is to surrender to a power greater than the ego. This is the essence of healing, and therapy for me is not curative if it does not heal in this manner. For instance, we know that the alcoholic truly is cured only when they surrender to the forces inside that drive them to drink. this leap of surrender to a higher power is identical with acceptance of self and on's self expression. and here's what I believe is crucial; the more the need to surrender to higher powers (be it the self, the bottle, God, cross-dressing, etc.) the greater the opportunity to find peace inside and God everywhere. Cross-dressing, seems to me, to be an ideal opportunity for such self healing and attainment of inner peace. I use the word opportunity for I know it is not at all that for some individuals and nor do I suggest that it has to be understood as such to be enjoyed, but God, what an opportunity!

Thank you for writing such a beautiful editorial and providing me with the impetus to respond with some thoughts and feelings of my own. Some of this is going into an article I hope to publish in a professional journal in the future. I hope you continue to share your thoughts about this in your writings. You are quite eloquent with the written word. If I can be of support to you in any way, please

contact me. I thank you for doing such important and beautiful work.

Charles G. Verge, Ph.D.
398 Walnut Street
Newtonville, MA 02160

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Dear Editor

I would like to congratulate you on the quality of your magazine. I am the spouse of a pre-op male to female transsexual. Your articles (Issue #45) made me feel less alone.

I have, and always will love my spouse of five years. Since she revealed her desire to change her sex last april I have been unable to find a spouse support group. Your articles gave me courage and a better understanding of the transition my spouse is going through. Needless to say I am grateful for your publication.

Sincerely
Kathy J. (ID)

****

Dear Editor

You don't know how grateful I am to have found that there is a magazine for individuals like me. I commend you and your staff.

Your magazine is like a light at the end of a tunnel. Recently I had been fired because of a back injury. I had the job for four months and all during that time I abstained from dressing and going out on weekends - and during the week for that matter. I was becoming an emotional time bomb. I just had to blow off steam, so I told one of my co-workers. the man was not surprised when I told him that I was a transsexual and that I had to talk to somebody.

He smiled and said, "I was wondering if you would ever tell me. He knew all this time, but, he didn't know whether I was a TV or a TS. He had a few friends that were TVs. Anyway, we talked for a while as we were working. My god what a relief it was to talk to someone who was understanding and wasn't scared of me. Anyway, it's now been three weeks to myself as Christine.

I'll be the first one to say and admit that I need some type of counseling, but in the last eight years I've had nothing but bad experiences with professionals. Three of these eight years have been here in Minneapolis, where I live now. I know I may be (I am) paranoid about seeking professional help. In the past every time I would see one I always felt worse coming out of their office than when I went in.

Enough about me. I just want to say I'm joyous over the fact there's more individuals like me than I thought there were!

Love,
Christine K. (MN)

****

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Dear Editor

I enjoyed reading your articles in Issue #47. It appears that the P-town Outing was a big success again this year. I missed being their.

Joyce, my TV friend, and I got tired of being the only TVs in our area. we have launched a campaign to get other TVs out of the closet in Southern Colorado. We had placed personal ads in the Pueblo Chieftan, and the colorado springs Gazette-Telegraph. so far we have had 10 responses and have made some good contacts. We are working with the Colorado Gender Identity Center in Denver.

I would greatly encourage other TVs living in isolated areas to get active and get others out. The closeted TVs really need the help and it helps us 'established girls' to have new friends.

Sincerely,
Shirley Knight

(** If anyone would like to contact Shirley, write: Shirley K. Knight, Box 1042, Pueblo, CO 81002)

****

CITY OF LAKES CROSS-DRESSERS CLUB (MN)

Dear Editor

Recently received Issue #47 of "Tapestry" with C.L.C.D.'s listing and decided to "flesh out" the info provided for your readers.

We currently meet once each month at a member's home (usually) for a cocktail party. Dressing is optional, but most members do so each time. The meeting is always on a Saturday evening, but efforts to kept to one specific weekend, e.g. 3rd Sat of each month, have had only limited success. So it's best to call about arrangements for each month's meeting.

The group's purpose is to provide a comfortable social setting for CD's to meet like-minded folks. We are a non-sexual group when together, however personal orientation of individual members is not considered when newcomers apply to join us. all we ask is a personal interview before coming to the first party. Dues are $3.00 per month which helps to cover the cost of local advertising and the printing and mailing of the monthly club newsletter.

Again, thank you for the copy of Tapestry and for the fine quality of production you maintain within its covers.

Hoping to see you in Chicago at the GGA Spring Fling.

Best regards,
Yvonne Cowell
President, C.L.C.D.

(** Those wishing to contact the City of Lakes Cross-Dresser's Club may do so by writing or calling: Yvonne Cowell, c/o C.L.C.D., 3917 France Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55416 612-920-3316)

****

MESSAGE TO TEXANS

Hello

My name is Charlene, and I'm a lifelong cross-dresser from Austin, Texas. I am a member of Tri-Ess, GGA, Tiffany Club, the Outreach Institute, ETVC, Shangri-La Club, and the brand new Boulton & Park Cultural Society in San Antonio. (Hmmmm....Do I sound like a joiner?)

I'm sure you know that it gets pretty lonely out here in TV land and I for one don't want to be lonely any more. And, now that I'm out of the Navy and have found Elaine (my wife and best friend who loves Charlene as well as Clancy), my goal is to know as many TVs as time will allow. I've lived in the closet too long and refuse to go back into hiding. My cross-dressing is no longer a problem for me now that I have at last accepted that it is one of the things that I cannot change. (Would I if I could? Hmmmm....) Soooo, I've started telling the world how much I enjoy letting me be me.

That's what this letter is all about. Even if you are too far away to come to the meetings in san Antonio, you CAN write or call and you CAN tell others. You CAN tell about you or our group and, if any of that is still too scary, you can tell about me. What the heck, my family, (including two ex-

wives with four kinds from sixteen to twenty-four), Elaine's family, some of the neighbors, (probably the postman) and of course my hair dresser (How come both of your ears are pierced?) all know, and, no doubt some others who know that I don't know know. There are still lots of people out there who need to know that they have nothing to fear from me or my cross-dressing. My best guess is that YOU are NOT a threat to anyone either. seems like people have a much easier time with things they don't feel they have to defend against. (Especially true when dealing with significant others.)

THERE IS NO LAW AGAINST CROSS-DRESSING IN TEXAS.!.!.! and the various directories list over 50 of us right here in Longhorn Country... Can you imagine a state wide convention where we could all spend a week or so EN FEMME??? (Of course you can!) Are you interested??? Could/Would you help???? (You gotta answer this one!)

Pick up the phone or a pen and call or write a TV and ME!! You and/or your special person can call and/or write, about ANYTHING to Charlene, Elaine and/or Clancy BYRD 9219 Anderson Mill Rd #1031, Austin, TX 78729-4560 512-250-8674.

If you're in the area, stop by for a hug and free cup of coffee. We love people, cats, flowers, quiet music, sunshine, Texas, and most of all, cross-dressers who need a friend.

Cares and prayers,
Charlene Byrd

****

CONCERNING THE MAYFLOWER SOCIETY

Dear Editor

Since moving from Allston, Mayflower activities and membership have declined.

Some remaining members have found a supportive atmosphere in a home belonging to Barbara L. back in Allston. It is a nice place to visit, meet others, and indulge in a favorite hobby.

The fees are structured a little differently than the old Mayflower, but they come out about the same - $10 per visit if you bring your own clothes, and $20 if you use the house's ample inventory.

A room and bath with a separate entrance is now being built. When it is done it may be desirable to consider the option of a monthly fee.

If anyone would like more information or to plan a visit please write to me, Neil Moses, c/o Mayflower, Box 66, Allston, MA 02134, or call Barbara at 617-254-3184 between 10 a.m. and noon. (Mention my name as an introduction.)

Sincerely,
Neil Moses

(** Mayflower was a Boston based organization for TVs and their friends who also enjoyed sexual and B&D fantasies.)

****

Dear Editor

I have just recently purchased Issue #47 of Tapestry and I am amazed and delighted that I have finally found a publication of stature that deals with the subject of cross-dressing, which is my particular interest, in such an informative and complete way. I certainly wish I had known about your publication years ago. It has given me so much hope and inspiration about possibly coming out of the closet after 45 years, and to be able to read of other's experiences which almost duplicate mine. I guess I have known all along that these people existed, but until now I have had no way of knowing how to get to correspond and ultimately

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meet them. The main thing I thing you convey to me by the way you have organized your club and activities and events is that it is conducted in a discreet and yet open manner. Having a very non-supportive wife and having grown children living at home have made for many long years of frustration and loneliness. I have even been depressed due to my age (55), but I was encouraged to see TVs of all age groups.

In any case, your publication, to paraphrase the words of Clint Eastwood, has "made my day". You can make that my year and perhaps the rest of my life. I am trying not to get my hopes up too high, but you cannot imagine the change in the feeling I have had about myself since seeing and reading and re-reading your magazine.

****

Dear Editor

I read your editorial on Religion several times (and thank you for your kind words about me). I was expecting that you might say something that would rattle my theological cage, but in fact I could not find anything to duel with you about. I tend to stay closer to traditional theological language, but what you mean and what I mean are not really at odds. Also, I derive comfort from participating in institutional "religious" activity partly because these institutions are a deeply ingrained part of my cultural and social inheritance, and partly because I understand that institutions are essentially human and subject to the human foibles of time and place and circumstance (and, of course, human limitations). As every good theologian knows (which is to say that there are many "theologians" who don't know it) the Divine element in any human religion is, at best, analogous. After all, God (yours and mine) was around long before there were any churches, and seemed to manage quite well. for me, going to church is an important way of expressing in human terms certain elements of my religious sentiment. But, I am happy to think that you and I attend that larger church, and "worship" together as we stand in loving and joyful awe in the presence of that which is One and True and Good and Beautiful.

Love,
Paula R. (MA-0447)

****

Dear Editor

My brother was a transsexual.

Growing up in a large family of five girls and two boys, David and I were best friends. We spent all our time together making plans for the future. David was always quiet and very passive. He never seemed to have many friends. He had a high I.Q., and could have made good grades in school, yet he barely passed. While growing up David seemed sort of lost and confused. When I was 12, David started to take my mom's, sisters', and my clothes to dress in. at one time he drilled holes in my bedroom door to watch me dress. He said it was in order to get makeup and dressing tips. Until that time I never realized he was a transsexual. For a while I found it really hard to accept him and what he was. I felt he would grow out of his obsession with women's clothes, but he didn't. Once he gave me money to buy him clothes. He said he like the clothes I chose. While at home he couldn't really dress up that much, and he was really frustrated by that. Once he broke into a neighbor's house while they were away, just to try on the women's clothes. when he left home he dressed up as much as possible. Going out as a woman was a real adventure. No one seemed to know he was really a man.

David decided to have a sex change operation. Unfortunately this was not to be. He couldn't afford to have the operation, and because my family ignored his problem he couldn't turn to them. Not wanting to live as a man any longer, and not being able to afford to become a woman, David committed suicide.

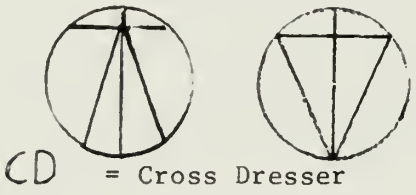
I finally understood my brother's anguish to become a woman, yet I was helpless.

- Linda H. (IL)

****

Dear Editor

Tania volen has for some time in her TV publication been saying that there is a strong demand in the TV Community for a secret identification symbol that could be displayed on one's car, or tie clasp, lapel pin, necklace, etc. to assist TVs to identify one another. I wonder if you are a part of this project, and how you feel about it. I fear it would be difficult to keep this secret within the TV Community...but how about within the Tiffany membership? I have given such a symbol a lot of thought and I come up with the following:



CD = Cross Dresser

♀ = Woman/Female

↑ = Man/Male

○ = Unity

I would love to hear from you on this, and I compliment you on the wonderful work you are doing to help the TV Community feel more comfortable with itself. You and Tiffany and Tapestry have been a most positive force in my life, and I am grateful.

Sincerely,
Robin B (FL-0611)

(** Dear Robin: A while back there was some thought of turning the Tiffany/Tapestry logo into a lapel pin. The idea was discarded mostly because of expense, and the feeling that not too many people would wear it. If you think, and if anyone else thinks it would be feasible, we'll look into it again.)

****

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FORUM

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If you have an item you wish to submit for publication in the Forum, send it to: Editor, The Tapestry, P.O. Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778

Dear Editor

At first, after reading your editorial and Paula Riordan's article - both on religion - (Tapestry Issue #47) I wanted to respond with simple words of multi dimensional philosophical and theological wisdom. However, not being blessed with much talent in either area, and possessing little wisdom, I was led, by my spirit, to share instead a little bit of me and some bitter-sweet feelings.

Not long ago, during that period of time in my life when I first started to become aware of the feminine persona within, I was also enrolled as a young child in a religious oriented grammar school. One day I asked a question in class, as it seemed to relate to the catechetical instruction of the day, "How can god be all loving, all caring and all forgiving, while at the same time, appear to be so mean and be able to cast those who disobey the rules into such a terrible place as Hell, and not for just a little while, but forever and ever?"

As I remember it, the subject was changed, and my child-like attempts at persistence to obtain the answer, which was very important to me at the time, brought only admonishing words of chastisement.

I was very frightened and had grave concerns about the fate of my spirit. To make matters worse, this very young boy/girl person had accidentally discovered a graphically illustrated version of Dante's Inferno.

My feeling of sheer terror and fear grew as I turned the pages and viewed the elaborately detailed horrors to be endured along the seven spiraled descent towards the bowels of Hell itself!

As I trembled with fear I remember only two very distinct and strong thoughts! I most certainly didn't want to embark on that fearful journey to Hell - yet I desperately wanted to become, in all ways, the girl within.

Not knowing what to do, and having nowhere, nor anyone to turn to (my parents, and other household members had observed my feminine nature and my affinity for feminine things. This was all harshly met, head on, with threats of fire and brimstone) I decided to pray ... and pray I did!

With child-like innocence and fervor, driven by terror, every day, during my evening prayers, as I knelt, with arched back, beside my bed, I silently added a prayer of intercession to the Mother of God. To ask the Father, the Son, and most of all the Holy spirit to someday grant my desire to become the girl within, in mind, body and spirit and also to protect me from the evil turmoils of Hell.

As the saying goes, "The Lord moves in mysterious ways." And ever since, so has my life in general.

No!! Nothing miraculous took place and changed me into a feminine ten. I've also experienced my fair share of ups and downs, heartbreak and joy, sadness and happiness, despair and elation along the path of life! Yet I can't help but feel and somehow know that I'm a very special and privileged person.

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I feel this way because, since that time of childhood, I've enjoyed many opportunities to be that girl. At first - brief moments, then days at a time, to several weeks at a time. I've experienced the growth and maturing of those initial innermost feelings from mere girl, to young lady, to woman. In mind and spirit, and to a degree in body. Most important - somehow I know it all will continue, for the rest of my life, and beyond time itself.

Today I often find myself with much happiness welling in my heart and tears clouding my eyes, especially when I bring to mind a particular logo, a metaphoric and somewhat enigmatic message, "The Trinity of Being: of being masculine, of being feminine, of being one with yourself and nature."

Looking back to those boy/girl childhood days of mine; and reflecting on the events which precipitated my prayers to another kind of enigmatic trinity of being, the events in my life which have unfolded since, and it's current course --- all I can say is, thank you for hearing me! Thank you for listening to my childhood prayer. ---

Though I've never gotten an answer to my initial question - at least one I'm able to reconcile and feel comfortable with, I still say the same prayer every day - but with a much much lighter and happier Being.

Sincerely,
Diantha Kay (VT-0214)

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Dear Editor

To say I was "shocked" to see an editorial in the Tapestry by Merissa Sherrill Lynn on the subject of religion is a masterpiece of understatement. It blew my hose off! Based on prior discussions with Merissa, and on an old article about P-town, I knew that Merissa as many positive feelings about life, but not necessarily under the guise of "religion".

Merissa Stated that value judgments are not qualities of Nature. She further commented that it is the responsibility of every individual to decide what is right or wrong, good or bad, and to live by those beliefs. No theologian, to my knowledge, has ever so commented, for it would undermine his position as a mentor. Merissa professes these beliefs, and they are so perfect and so right! We who, by necessity, have developed that important sense of right or wrong, live by it. We live by it 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Never hurt another human being, physically or mentally ... never climb ut another person's back, for the sake of success. Succeed on our own merits. Leave the world a better place for having lived in it ... this is an OBLIGATION!

Most of us who dress seem to live by these precepts. We who dress pass through a magical door, perhaps akin to "Alice in Wonderland". When we step through that door into our feminine role, complete with all the necessary accouterments and a new, feminine name, we must of necessity leave behind all that is worldly. We leave behind our worldly accomplishments, our awards, even our status in life. We step forward into our new world of femininity divested of worldly status. Prestige, power and circumstance are gone. Oh yes, we are clothed of regal dress, well-coiffed and with brassiere well-padded, but divested of those superfluities of life behind which we have hidden for so long. Divested, and we meet our sisters in similar circumstance. We are a person, to be accepted or rejected, by who we are, not what we are. For so long we have built a "what" identity, and in an instant, a step through that magical door, our "what" is stripped away, leaving us "divested".

There is an ethereal beauty in this transformation. We cannot impress our sisters with our accomplishments. We cannot even discuss them! Our femme identity is our identity apart. What then, for those of us of worldly accomplishment. What became of those altruistic ideals of which we aspired. We, of necessity, turn again, or return again to only that person within.

We approach, and we can only approach our sisters on a basis of equality. The "person" is accepted as we accept our fellow sisters to like

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(or dislike), to understand, to appreciate as a person, and yes, even to love. This experience, above all, is a most unexpected aspect of dressing, and an experience of incredible reward. Acceptance without the collected accolades, the collected awards, the collected accomplishments of that other life. How long has it been since, as kids, there were no worldly accomplishments with which to dazzle, but only "kids". We who dress are regressed to that wonderful interpersonal relationship.

To those who dress but have not yet come out to join their fellow sisters, a wonderful experience awaits. It will be unexpected, a bit "scary" at first, but incredibly rewarding.

To quote Jackie Gleason, "How sweet it is!"

Happiness to all ---
Bette J. (TX-0543)

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FROM:

CHRISTINE R. TAYLEUR
PACIFIC CENTER FOR HUMAN GROWTH
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

R.E. AIDS EDITORIAL #46

I'd like to make some comments regarding the editorial about AIDS in Tapestry issue #46. RIGHT ON! It is good to see some attention being called to this issue which is such a grave health crisis to the sexual minority community. As a peer counselor and therapist-in-training I am and have been deeply concerned about our sisters who are working the streets for survival and/or to make enough for surgery, and how this health crisis may affect them and others with whom they may interact sexually. This is a population that is already overlooked and neglected, and it is such a tragedy to see someone go through so much pain and turmoil in search of a happy life only to find out they have AIDS and only six months to live.

As we are all very much aware (I hope), this is a grave crisis we face. I feel it is extremely important that we in the TV-TS Community educate ourselves in regard to this new plaque. it is not a 'gay' disease, and it concerns all of us, whether we identify ourselves as hetero-, homo-, or bi-sexual, whether we are TV, TG, TS, or what have you. AIDS KILLS HUMAN BEINGS!

The Berkeley Center is a major resource for AIDS information and counselling. It also distributes pamphlets for AIDS information, Safesex, etc. If you would like information, write or call: The Pacific Center, P.O. Box 908, Berkeley, CA 94701 415-841-6224.

R.E. "WHAT SEX AM I?" ISSUE #46

I would like to add a few comments on the HBO special "What Sex Am I?" I may be able to add a unique perspective as I personally know a goodly number of the people who were featured on it. First, I thought it was over-all the single most sensitive and well-written documentary about the TV-TS Community

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"A Place To Begin"

ever done for national television. I do however, have some important criticisms. First, featuring Joe and Ken (both good friends of mine) was redundant. Second, and most importantly, the bar scene featuring "she-males" could have been totally left out. That sort of publicity we don't need. Further, there have already been several shows featuring the she-males, and they tend to stick out in people's minds. I feel (as do many others) the time spent on redundancy and in the bar could have been better spent. Third, I agree with Merissa in her points to Mr. Rist's mistakes regarding his interpretation of Dr. Fisk's statement about hormones, etc. I feel that the theory of pre-natal hormone mix-up may very well be a cause or at least a definite causal factor in transsexualism and possibly in transvestism as well. However, vast amounts of research are still needed.

R.E. "THE HORMONE GUIDE" ISSUE #47

I wish to make a few comments on the article in issue #47 "The Hormone Guide" by Cheryl of Battersea.

My first comment concerns Cheryl's statement regarding synthetic gestagens like Provera being rarely used must be qualified. It may be rare in the U.K., but not in America, especially in the San Francisco area where it is one of the most common hormones prescribed.

My second comment concerns Cheryl's advice to come off hormones prior to surgery. That sort of Advice is tantamount to a medical prescription, and should be given by, and only by one's physician or surgeon. I especially take issue with her statement, "....whatever one's surgeon does or does not say!"

Other than that, my criticisms are minor. Over-all, the article was well-researched, well-written, and needed.

"Thank you Cheryl!"

TO ALL

I work with the Pacific Center in berkeley, and am running support groups. One of them is a TS support group and one is a general trans-gender support group open to anyone. The TV-TS rap group, as it is called, has been on-going since '74. Our TS support group was started in May of '85. In the TV-TS group we average 20-30 or more people at times and the population is approximately half-and-half TV & TS. The TS group averages 11-14 people. On the last Friday of each month I try to arrange for a featured speaker to come and talk on some subject of interest to the TV-TS Community in general. In the past we have had such notables as Paul Walker of the Janus Information Facility, Donald Laub of Stanford, various make-up artists, therapists, and a host of others. My personal biggest success was getting Christine Jorgensen to come and speak to the group last September.

I should also mention that I work on the information/crisis line at the Pacific Center on the 2nd and 4th (and 5th if any) Wednesday's of each month from 7-10 p.m. Pacific time, at 215-841-6224.

Take care, & blessings.

In Sisterhood,

Christine Tayleur

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(This is in response to the letter published in Tapestry #46 from an unnamed guy who "looks like a garage mechanic" and can't understand why he is so attracted to being feminine. - M.S.)

Dear Mr. X,

Thank you for the letter you wrote that was published in Tapestry #46. Perhaps on seeing it in print for thousands of others to read you might be feeling embarrassed. Maybe you think that everybody in the world is looking at you, just knowing you wrote it. Maybe it took a couple of beers to get in the mood for writing it, and you're now regretting it. I sincerely hope you don't.

It really was an outstandingly clear letter, expressing precisely how you felt -- a true work of art. There is no way you can possibly be identified from it, because there are literally hundreds of thousands of guys out there who feel exactly as you feel, and don't know what to do about it. You have helped all of them by writing as you did. Even those of them who didn't read it have been helped indirectly because every letter like yours helps those around us to understand and accept people like you and me. It took a lot of guts to write that letter, and you can be proud of that.

Look around you. Estimates say 2 to 4% of men are just like us. There might be enough of us in the world to equal the whole male population of the U.S.A. In a movie theater or on a crowded street, you will see a dozen or two men like us. If you work for a large company, you will know an equal number. You won't know who they are. They can easily hide. Unlike they're probably married -- and happily so. If you tried to discuss being feminine with them, they'd lie, because they're afraid of what other people -- and you -- would think. they all look masculine too. Your best buddy might be one of them. But they didn't have the courage to write the letter. You did.

Fact is, there's no such thing as a "normal" man. there's an image of a normal man, true, but almost nobody fits it. Women are in many ways more practical, more flexible, than men in their tastes. They can often accept a man more easily as he is, for himself, using common sense. If a man is handsome (beautiful), he's a "hunk". If he's ugly, he's "rugged and strong". Men are more finicky, have more kinks. We're subject to sexual imprinting that takes place far too early for us to control it or even be aware of it. Do you prefer slender women? Cuddly women? Blondes or brunettes? There are "breast men" and "leg men". What about all those porno mags? They nearly all have women wearing garter-belts and stockings. These are all just fetishes, for heaven's sake. There's no rhyme or reason to them, but most men are bound to them. Women are relatively much more free from these obsessions. as men, we have to put up with them. And fetishism is only one reason for crossdressing.

Society ("Arsiciety", as Eric Berne wisely and satirically called it)

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Erotica for Women
EIDOS
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sets standards for men that are not only unattainable, but quite contradictory. Sears catalogues present pictures of confident, smiling men in smart clothing -- then someone comes along and says nastily and sneeringly that "those male models are all gay". The ideal macho male has m,muscles like Schwartzenegger's, the aggressiveness of a rabid dog -- and a brain about the same size. Brute force and nothing else is hardly a survival characteristic in today's world. Men have won respect through artistry, through diplomacy, through intellectual brilliance, through wisdom, through music. and so have women. All these things cross the sex boundaries. Strength and love and courage and intelligence and sensitivity are all survival characteristics; yet some of these are labeled "feminine" by a confused society that we in turn must educate.

for it is "society" that is confused, not ourselves. "Society" needs the toughness and aggressiveness that is statistically more characteristic of men, for its own protection, just as it needs the softness and nurturing and beauty that is statistically more characteristic of women, for its own comfort. "Society" is simple-minded and can only approve of the common subset of attributes that all its members agree on: women are soft and submissive and pretty, and men are rough and tough. Step outside those boundaries, and "society" fights back, because it is threatened -- out of weakness, because it is afraid. we as individuals know differently.

Women,en have had more success in fighting stereotypes in recent years because most women need to exhibit traits such as assertiveness thought more characteristic of men, and have succeeded in doing so while convincing society that they lose nothing of their vital functions as women. Women can even dress as men and get away with it. Men's need to exhibit "feminine" traits is more subdued, more diffuse, and more concentrated in a minority such as ourselves, so we must work harder to prove that we can enjoy relaxing and indulging those desires without detracting from our ability to be men.

What makes a man? Well, he has the physical body of a man. That's the way you described yourself. he has certain behavior patterns, including a particular kind of male assertiveness, which is what you have. If heterosexual, he's attracted to women, capable of satisfying women and of becoming a father. Sounds like that might be you, too. Any other attributes, such as psychic strength and self-confidence, courage, sense of humor, intelligence, any specific skills such as the ability to write well, draw, craft things with one's hands, play music, or get on with other people, are talents that cut across the sex boundaries. Oh, and one other thing. Nearly all men are worried about whether they measure up to other's standards of being a man or not. Women worry about their faces or their breasts or their weight, or their ability in bed or their adequacy as wives and mothers and friends, but not about their basic femaleness. Men worry about their manhood. and many men look as if they measure up, but few believe they do. All of us bastards out there are faking it. We all need some reassurance.

It must scare the hell out of you to think what others would say if they knew how you really are. The Scots poet Burns wished for the gift to "see ourselves as others see us". there are a few opinionated jerks around who could really use that gift, but for most people the truth is quite the converse: that others see us the way we see ourselves. If we're ashamed of ourselves, others agree with us. If we're happy with ourselves, other people buy that too. I was in a business meeting recently where a coworker was asked if he had performed a commitment made the previous week. "No," he said.

"Last week you said you would do it," the manager pointed out.

"Well, I lied," he said.

This announcement was greeted with gales of laughter. It was outrageous, but making the statement with self-confidence, he got away with it. Nobody seemed to think any the worse of him.

You might feel you have a problem, but the problem isn't wanting to be feminine at times. That's no more of a problem than having a wooden leg or not being a millionaire. Many people have far worse problems, like being a child

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molester. The problem is only one of self-acceptance.

Self-acceptance won't make everybody in the world love you. they won't, whoever you are. But if you accept yourself, other people will tend to as well. It doesn't mean you'll be able to walk up to anyone and say "I'm a cross-dresser." Most times in life we have to dissemble a bit, like giving Aunt Bertha a kiss even though she slobbers and has a face like the back end of a horse, because she's a dear old soul really and we wouldn't like to hurt her feelings, and besides we know we'll get money for candy afterwards. Psychologists call this "appropriate" behavior. But it does mean there will be a few people who are important to us, such as a wife and other close friends, that we can freely tell our most intimate desires to and who will tell us that they love us anyway, and perhaps even because of the way we are. Those are the people who really count. And they're out there to be found.

Don't think there was anything wrong about writing a letter to explain who you are and what you need. It's a very healthy instinct to want to reach out and communicate with other people, whatever you have to say about yourself. I'm not surprised you're excited about it. Likewise, it's a sensible course of action to read and learn as much as you can about other people like you. If you've been reading 'Tapestry' for two years, I don't need to recapitulate the facts about other male TVs and how well you fit in. (I used to have a beard myself.) There are millions of men like us, who have been through the same phases of self-doubt, of embarrassment, of trying to kick the habit, of throwing away expensive collections of the clothes we love, and finally of accepting and enjoying a fascinating hobby. For that's what it is. Do I need to tell you about the policemen, the military officers, the businessmen, the politicians who enjoy our hobby? If we want to discuss it, that's a measure of our courage, not of theirs.

Are we sick? Well, to me sickness means an inability to function effectively. If you have the flu and can't get around, then you're sick. If you think you're Napoleon or you go around raping people, then I can sympathize with your pain, but I can't blame society for locking you up for its own protection. But if you're a male TV, you're fully functional. You can do everything any other man can do. You can hunt and fight and fix cars and make money and make women and marry and father children, and you can love. Oh boy, can you love! In reality, you're more than a man, because you have talents most men will never attain to. The average TV spends a lot of time fantasizing, and as a TV, you probably have well-developed powers of fantasy and imagery. That will make you a super father to young children, if that role appeals to you. You may be a very inventive and creative person. That might make money for you, or assist you in any career you have. You can probably communicate your thoughts and feelings very clearly to others, as your letter proves, even if you haven't had much chance to use that ability.

Most of all, your ability to "think feminine" will give you real empathy and closeness to women. Perhaps, like me, you don't demean women and won't think their concerns are silly or trivial. If you like to relax in a hot perfumed bubble bath and spend an hour doing different hair styles, you won't be so irritated at a woman for spending hours making sure her makeup is just right or worrying over whether her shoes go with her dress. Perhaps you can understand the importance of childbirth to women. If you don't, it will come. Perhaps you can already understand women's fight to be recognized as the equals of men in their own unique way, even as you are fighting in your way to escape from the stereotype of maleness. With this empathy you can form a relationship, or a marriage, that is deeply rewarding. A real woman wants a man who is strong, yes, who can act like a man and who can perform as a man and as a father. But a real woman also wants closeness and intimacy, sympathy and communication and love. a man with a feminine streak can derive enormous gratification from lovemaking, because he knows what is going on on both sides of the bed. I have found tremendous satisfaction with women. You can have a relationship that is the envy of your buddies. You can give her everything.

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You need the right woman, of course. I'm guessing from your letter, which implies you have lots of time to dress at home, that you're not married. Whatever you do, do work up the courage to tell her about your needs, even if this takes time. Do get close to her first. When she knows what kind of man you are, the rest won't matter. If she really can't accept it, it's not her fault; the two of you just weren't compatible. Better to split and keep looking for the right partner than put up with a lifetime of misery and fear. The right partner is out there waiting for you.

Many women are afraid that their TV partners will turn into full-time women, or that they are gay. But sexual needs never disappear. They may evolve, or you may develop new ones, but if you are turned on to women now, that will never go away. You will always be heterosexual.

It is tough to square feminine with masculine desires. "Society" insists that the two are incompatible. Women can wear pants and still be women, but a man can't wear a skirt. We are forced to split our personalities into two. That's OK! It's also impossible to be both angry and sympathetic at the same time, or depressed and elated at the same time, and yet people can be both of these at different times. Let them be separate. Most lifetime TVs adopts a feminine name for their "other" personality. When you're feeling masculine, I know it's impossible to remember emotionally what it was like to want to be feminine. but you can remember in an intellectual sense. Don't throw out that collection of women's clothes. Keep them for that rainy day that will surely come.

What I'm saying may make sense to you, but it does take time to really buy in to it and believe it. That's OK too! It takes time to change you way of thinking and accept yourself. I did it without help, but it took me years. Your letter was an acknowledgement of the way you are, and a major step to self-acceptance. With help, you can do it much quicker.

Getting the right kind of help is important. Be picky. Spend time with people who will support you, and ditch those who won't. If you meet with rejection, the raised middle finger is the correct answer. Don't worry about what other people think of you; just be prudent. I don't recommend rearranging people's dental work, but at least it's a healthier attitude than beating yourself over the head for being the way you are. I'm not talking now about flaunting your feminine self in public. That's not a good idea, and won't meet with a good response, and you probably don't want to do that anyway. You have to allow for other people's sensitivities. I'm just talking about the kind of mental attitude you need to cultivate. (Although I have met at least one TV who ventured out in public and was approached by a stranger who said "I wish I had the balls to do what you do.")

You might benefit from counseling, but if you decide to do so, be careful whom you choose. There are many counselors of both sexes who don't understand transvestism, who don't want to, and who will try to "cure" us, which is futile. They will undermine our self-confidence. With friends like those, who needs enemies? Remember we are a minority. I've never been in counseling about my transvestism, but I would recommend that you try to contact other TVs for a recommendation, or one of the national TV clubs. You can do that anonymously through a phone call.

You won't be cured of feminine desires through psychotherapy, but with the right therapist you should feel a whole lot better about yourself. There isn't 22 years of death to go: there's 22 or more years of life and joy.

Finally, I gather from your reference to the 'Globe' that you live in the Boston area. Why not give the Tiffany Club a call? I felt nervous about doing it too. You will find all manner of people here, and you will find people just as masculine -- and just as feminine -- as yourself. Most of all, you will feel welcome.

Sincerely,
M.S.

****

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT TIFFANY? WHY ARE WE DRAWN THERE?

by
Micheline Johnson (CAN-0560)

While driving the 450 odd miles back to Ottawa, I asked myself why some of us knock ourselves out travelling long distances to attend parties at Wayland lasting only a few hours, then, after only a day to recover from the party, turn round and do the trek back home. The accommodations are certainly not luxurious. There are mosquitoes and pollen, and crickets in the rafters that try their best to keep you awake at night.

I used to do similar trips from Ottawa to Albany, NY to the TVIC group. The parties there were only four hours long (7-11) and although the company was pleasant, the party itself did not seem to justify a day's driving. Sure, I was glad to meet friends, good people such as Winnie, Wilma, Kathy, Alice, and Crystal; but in those days what I enjoyed most was the pleasure of the trip, the drive through the upstate NY Adirondack mountains, the peaceful day on my own in beautiful surroundings in a role in which and with which I was most comfortable and at peace.

I would do shorter trips from Ottawa to the TAM meetings in Montreal. Montreal is a fascinating city, but as it became more French speaking, I felt myself become more and more isolated from meaningful discussions with the TAM members. Those visits however were worth it, if only for the travel itself. Rather than drive, I would hitch-hike, and meet all sorts of interesting people on the road. Thus I would enjoy meeting the "real" world as much if not more than meeting those having background similar to mine.

When I first travelled to Boston to visit Tiffany I did enjoy the trip, long as it was. I would regard the drive down as an enjoyable part of my holiday. the highway takes you through some beautiful scenic parts of Vermont and New Hampshire. North of Burlington, VT, the road is high up and overlooking Lake Champlain, with a view of the mountains in NY across the water. Travelling home, I would usually hit this part around sunset time - a beautiful sight.

But no more. I have grown to dread the trip. I take a week or more to recover from it.

So why do I do it? What is so special about Tiffany? Why are we drawn there?

It is not must a place where I can be myself. I am 'Micheline' in and around Ottawa, when I travel, in fact wherever I go.

It is not just a beautiful place in the country, with tall trees (please

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don't cut them down), a garden sloping down to the water, a nice old house, pleasant woods to walk in and quiet country lanes to walk along. I have enjoyed staying there (with the ghosts of you all) when no-one is there but the residents.

It is not just a place to party, though high spirited partying certainly does take place.

Tiffany is special because of people, the people behind it and the people who visit, because of what it stands for and because of its special purpose - to help a particular group of people.

the people who visit are special, at least to me they are. Many of us, though happy through self acceptance, and able to lead our preferred lifestyle, are handicapped emotionally. Because our lifestyle does not conform to the norm, most people we meet are afraid to befriend us or get involved. There are so few people in our life who accept us fully and get close to us, with whom we can hug or cry.

At Tiffany, we can talk in detail about our feelings and hopes, our frustrations and joys, with people who understand these feelings, and because of this there develops a special warmth among friends. It is easy to make friends there. You know you are one of them. Even post-op TS's, who have every reason to want to disassociate themselves from our world, feel drawn to Tiffany, to meet old friends and to re-experience that warmth.

The people are interesting and colourful, from all walks of life, and with different orientations and emphasis. Everyone has a story to tell about their own special situation. There are those less experienced than you, and those more experience. You can advise, and you can learn. There are those more beautiful than you, whom you envy, and those less. There are those with concerns similar to yours, and those far different. You will always find people there who have experiences and feelings common to yours.

You meet TV's and TS's, couples and singles, people living the lifestyle, and those interested in it and in our welfare. The spouses exert a healthy influence on Tiffany members. At the Clambake, I met a mother of one of our members, the first time I had met a mother at one of the parties. It was great to be able to hear her point of view. I found her sympathetic and understanding to the whole scene.

I found there were mixed feelings amongst members about parents and adult children of members attending the parties. If spouses or girl/boy friends are encouraged to come, why not relatives and interested friends, provided their attitude is known in advance to be fairly positive, and they are not likely to behave in a way that would make people feel uncomfortable. After meeting this mother, I would like to meet others like her.

You know you have to come back again. Often I book for the next function before leaving the one I am at. Last Christmas at Tiffany, before the P-town summer outing had even been announced, I had booked for it. At the Clambake, I booked for the Open House, and so on.

the people behind the scenes are special. If it were not for the organization, planning and volunteer help before the parties, there would be no place to meet, no opportunity to meet all these people. People are human. There is some politicking, even back-stabbing. Many of the various committee members move on. But one person, Merissa, seems to be always there, working full time to make the whole thing function, providing continuity and catalytic energy. Sure there are many others who spend much time and energy to help. But would they, were it not for that one pivotal person? We are short of such leaders. Some I have met include Susan (FACT/Hamilton), Cheryl (upstate NY), christina (TAMs/Montreal), and Wilma (TVIC/Albany). Wilma had a group going for some 25 years, probably a record. When she retired, TVIC/Albany (the only chapter of TVIC that had survived) collapsed shortly thereafter. With the exception of Susan, I do not believe any of the others work on our behalf full time.

Few persons have devoted so much of themselves to helping others in this field than Merissa. We owe her much gratitude and support so that she does not burn out through frustration.

The magazine is special. Tapestry is now probably the best publication in

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its field which includes such excellent quality magazines as Beaumont Bulletin (UK), and Transvestia (LA). By providing information about other groups, their publications and activities, Tapestry provides a bonding into an international movement between all the groups across the continent and beyond. It provides a forum for expression of individual views and insights into what this is all about. It contains technical articles by professionals expert in a particular field. there are fictional stories, but they all seem to carry a pertinent message. It includes beautiful art, and comic relief. It is all put together in a format elegant enough for any coffee table.

The financial organization is special. Members knowledgeable in the business world, have set up a corporation (NACD) designed to provide continuity as individuals come and go, that provides real estate and facilities as a base for Tiffany and its related functions. Plans are well advanced for the launching of a non-profit corporation to provide educational data to helping professionals and the public at large.

But above all, Tiffany in the abstract is special; just by existing and why - to allow people to communicate (face to face or through print) who would otherwise be isolated and alone with their problems; to help them accept themselves or their spouses/friends; to develop a worry-free lifestyle; and to have friends in whom they can fully confide.

- END -

YOUR WIFE, SHOULD YOU TELL HER? ANTICIPATING HER REACTION, THEN TELLING HER

by

Carol Taylor (NY-0428)

Since I have finally accumulated some "free time", I have decided to try and share some of it in a productive way with Tapestry readers. My recent emergence from the "closet" via the Tiffany Wives Support Group P-town Outing was one of the great thrills of my life. But, even more than fun, exciting, and fattening, the week-end was extremely educational. I learned much about myself, my wife, other cross-dressers, and their wives. Most of all it gave me the opportunity to give some serious though to this little understood "affliction" we share and to crystalize some long vague beliefs.

The first thought that I had was absolutely confirmed. Life is a whole lot better if your wife knows and accepts you. This startling revelation did not come to me at P-town but that experience surely confirmed my theory. An earlier marriage of 16 years to an unknowing wife followed by the last three to a knowing wife were already strong indicators. But at P-town I spoke at some length to several of the wives and husbands and I learned that there is an infinite variety of situations that exist. The length of the marriage, children, geographic location (and local attitudes), ages of

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the couple involved, strength of commitment, sexual preferences, money, occupation, physical attributes, and even taste in clothing can all have a very dramatic impact on the success of a marriage involving a cross-dresser. But, even though all of these factors varied among the couples there, there were some very distinctive common threads. Let me try to summarize and help others. I would like to call this "TELLING" because in the long run it all involves telling our loved one about our feminine side.

I. WHY TELL????

The question is a good one. No matter what your age, you have probably kept this feminine personality a carefully guarded secret. So too do you keep hidden your inventory of feminine expression which usually translates to a pretty complete array of feminine clothing. If no one "knows" why the hell tell them? Well, having been through it from both sides let me say that if your marriage is truly committed, you should want to share this important part of your personality with the woman with whom you share all else in life. But you're afraid of her reaction - right? Almost every crossdresser I've ever communicated with would like to be married to a knowing and understanding wife. Yet most are not. They are afraid. Many many wives will never even try to understand.... but many will. A few were in P-town. Every one of the 15 or so wives were surprised when they learned about their husband and every one was "upset" to varying degrees. Yet here they were, hooking our bras, applying our eyeliner, going out to restaurants with us, and joining us for a pajama party which was almost a fashion show of beautiful and tasteful intimate apparel. Here I was at 1:30 a.m. talking to a woman I had never met before about hair styles and my preference for garter belts over panty hose. If you think that sounds like fun - YOU'RE RIGHT! Why tell? It's now 4 p.m., my wife will be home soon. I'm not working this week so I'm catching up on things like this. I'm also utilizing this time for feminine expression. I'm dressed in jeans and a sweater over bra and panties. A short wig, a bit of makeup, a necklace, and heeled boots. My wife just came home, I helped her make a desert for a dinner she is attending. She will be home about 9:30 and I will be in bed with a more obvious and severe makeup job, a longer wig, and a very sexy negligee over stocking and marabou hi-heeled slippers. Sound like fun? IT IS!

II PREDICTING HER ULTIMATE REACTION AND DEGREE OF ACCEPTANCE.

What is she going to do? That's the BIG question isn't it? Well, to be sure, I don't know! I do know a lot depends on HOW you tell her, but clearly there are some basics of personality that might predispose her to ultimate acceptance. Will she grab the phone and call your boss, your parents and best friends and then grab the kids, the check book, the charge cards, the deed and the car and take off demanding lifetime support in return for not placing an article in the NY Times about you. Maybe - but probably not. But "probably" may not be good enough odds for you even if you would rather be wearing marabou heels to bed tonight. Everyone is different but let me share a few of the "common threads" I noticed.

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Acceptance seems more likely in direct proportion to the wives commitment to her own femininity once (and this is important) she does not feel in competition with you. Is she herself a feminine person (remember, sex and gender are NOT the same)? Does she read Glamour, Cosmo, Mademoiselle, or Business Week, Sports Illustrated and Time? Does she have lots of cosmetics and enjoy practicing with them? Many perfumes? Does she like or dislike the "macho" image? Does she watch Dynasty or Monday night Football? Does she have a nice collection of feminine lingerie and does she wear it? Does she spend time shopping for her bras etc in nicer shops and try them on or does she wear the 5 & 10 cent stuff from high school. Does she have lots of girl friends? Has she ever admitted to a lesbian encounter or to any hint of bisexuality? Does she admire other attractive women? These and other "tests" will help you. If you really aren't sure you can develop tests yourself, subscribe to Glamour for her - does she read it? Buy her nice lingerie - does she wear it and appreciate it? Look at Penthouse together - what is her reaction to the women, the girls making love to other girls, etc? Take her somewhere really dressy - does she love dressing up? Remember, your goal is to be able to express your feminine side with her, to be her occasional girlfriend. If she really loves girl things, she may really love you in that role. In short - if she LOVES being a girl, she'll more readily understand.

III TELLING, A COUPLE OF HINTS

The only reason I feel at all comfortable writing this is I did it - and it worked for me. That's no guarantee for you but I know it worked at least once. I also discussed the subject at length with several wives, many had been "approached" in very different ways and some in similar ways. Unanimously, they agreed with my SLOWLY and TASTEFULLY method. a couple of by-laws: Articles to read before articles to wear. Pamphlets before panties. Psychology before camisoles.

Rule #1: Leave an escape route. You are entering uncharted waters, what MUST be respected as dangerous territory. You have not been there before and certainly your wife hasn't. In fact, she doesn't have any idea she is going. You are the navigator! Your ultimate destiny is the island of Acceptance, but to reach it you know you will encounter turbulence. Try to leave a passage open at all times such that if the waters seem to threaten the ship - you can turn around and go back where you were. Not always easy, but I think possible. The key is proceeding slowly. It took me three years. There is no runway at Acceptance, only a pier - and even the pier is not all that secure. You must sail! Enough analogies. What I mean is it's clearly best not to lie down in bed one night in your sexiest feminine person. No escape. But you can "test the waters" a little bit in many many ways. Here are a few initiators:

"Gee, this is interesting - did you read this article about cross-dressing in --?"

"There's a female impersonation show in town, let's go see it."

"I recently met a guy who admitted he was a cross-dresser, and you'd never know it."

"When I was younger I used to love to wear panties."

"Sometimes I really think it would be fun to be a woman and wear such pretty things."

"I can't tell if that's a man or woman. Maybe it's one of the 4 million cross-dressers."

"It may take several such 'initiators' to obtain an appropriate sample and enough courage to go to the next step, but with some acceptance at this level, sail on. If in the 'initiator' stage you have not sunk, my next step was to buy her very nice and very feminine and sexy lingerie. One milestone in my mind as the garter belt and stockings I brought home. She wore them for me with enthusiasm, whenever I asked. If that's frightening, the minimum is a few nice expensive bras and panties. Here you are showing her you really understand femininity and you enjoy its intimacy. Point out some features that will surprise her - "I think the underwiring in this bra will be good for your figure."

Hopefully at this point she didn't vomit at your initial exposure to crossdressing and she has appreciated

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your intimate gifts. Still afloat. Unless you got some very severe warnings - proceed cautiously. Is she reading the Glamour you got her? Always be alert to the subtle signs of feminine acceptance.

Now, when she was in that sexy feminine lingerie I bought her I asked if I could wear panties to bed (softening her up with - "when I was younger..."). Still an escape route, if she gets upset I can always back off (this is where wife #1 sunk me). If she says it's OK, do it, but just this once. Wait several weeks and ask again. Now, if all goes well try an article or book. 'The Transvestite and his Wife' by Virginia Prince is OK. "I found it on the "train." Penthouse has many "letters" about crossdressing. ('Queen For A Day' was a very good Penthouse article 5 or 6 years ago.) 'Transvestites and Transsexuals' by Deborah Feinbloom is heavy, but not at all disgusting. I wrote my wife a letter and left the book 'TV And His Wife' saying that in the past I had worn more than just panties, that I suppose I could have been considered a "transvestite" and that I had found great enjoyment from "dressing". I told her I hadn't done it in years but if she ever felt she could handle it, I would love to dress with her one night. I asked her to please read the book, to not be frightened, and never bring the subject up again if she found it distasteful. She didn't - until about a month later.

She said I could "dress a little in bed if I really felt good doing it." With all the lights out I crawled in bed with a bra and panties on. She touched, said nothing and a day break I was back in skivvies. I left her the book 'TVs and TSs', and another letter stating how good it had felt. Well, the next time, ALWAYS at her suggestion, or minimally with her permission - bra, panties garter belt and stockings. That night we made love. A month later she suggested I do that again and this time she too wore stocking and we rubbed our stockinged legs together most of the night. I bought her more lingerie. She bought me some. Every time I was feminine I wrote her a thank-you note that said in part not to be afraid. I left more articles. I left a Tapestry. We tried some cosmetics one night - I told her how good she was. I tried to "reward" her for her acceptance. I bought her a new cosmetics kit. Then I occasionally had a bra on under my shirt when she returned home at night. She didn't mind.

After two years I drew up a contract to attend the Tiffany Wives Support Group outing. I wrote a very long letter and explained what I thought it would be like. She said nothing for a month and then subtly said OK. The letter we received said it was HER week-end and indeed it was. If you are lucky enough to educate an "accepting" wife, always remember that you can be a woman with her, BUT ONLY ON HER TERMS! She married a man and that's primarily who she wants YOU to be. BUT you CAN be her girlfriend and yes, even her female lover IF you listen to HER.

Sometimes in our lives we are "out of "synch". I am not feeling feminine and my wife is desireous of some feminine companionship. I tend to not get feminine on those occasions, and that is wrong. If she can accept me, the least I can do is be a woman for her when she needs it.

The WSG Weekend was marvelous. I hope more of you are there next year, but remember, you must bring your wife.

- END -

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TERRI'S THOUGHTS
by Terri Scott

"Nothing is more definite in a person's life than their sex and who their parents are, both are established at birth for most people. Sex and parentage are definites in the constantly changing sea of life." This quote is from Ken Follet's novel "The Man From St. Petersburg." His character Charlotte has just learned that her father is not her real father. Charlotte is shocked to the very essence of her being. Two definites in the constantly changing sea of life and for most of us we have never experienced one. Our sex-gender identity has never been a definite, while everyone around us knows exactly what they are and have excepted it unequivocally, we constantly question our gender identity.

It is important for us to realize and understand how definite gender identity is in the normal male and female. It is definite, unquestioned and unchangeable and because it is so, it affects us directly in our dealings with society. Society basically doesn't understand us. Whether they be male or female most people have never had the slightest desire to be the opposite sex, therefore, they find it very difficult if not impossible to understand us. When we understand and accept this fact about the people we are dealing with in society it then becomes easier for us to deal with them and explain ourselves and our unique desires. We must understand others before we can expect them to understand us. Many attempts by us to explain ourselves to others fail because we do not understand that most individuals find our desires so unusual because of their strong gender identity.

The strength of the average person's gender identity is dramatically evident in discussions with gay men. I have spoken with gay men who cannot comprehend us at all. Their confusion about us is no different than that of heterosexual men. These men are gay but they are male and have no questions about their gender identity. Even more fascinating have been discussions with lesbians who are in male attire, have male mannerisms and to all outward appearances would appear to be the female equivalent to us. They are not. These lesbians may reject the outward appearances of what society regards as feminine but they are female and have no questions or doubts about their gender. They are just as puzzled by us as the average male.

We have all experienced the frustrations of explaining ourselves to a normal person. Why can't they understand and accept our desires? We are frustrated, exasperated and confused by their lack of understanding. their bewildering questions and lack of comprehension of our situation, perplex and frustrate us, but how many times have we considered where their head is during the course of the discussion? Not often in most situations, I would venture to guess, we tend to become frustrated at their lack of understanding and compassion for our situation.

Any successful sales person knows that they must understand the wants and needs of their prospect in order to sell them on the sales person's product. The sales person must try and think like the prospect. we must do the same when dealing with society. We must realize and accept the fact that our desires are beyond the comprehension of most people because they never have and never will experience these desires. We must block out our own prejudice that develops from our situation and understand that they mean nothing to the person we are dealing with and are trying to make understand us. for example, many of us have tried and failed to reason with a normal female on the subject of the relaxed social dress standards for women versus men. She can wear male clothes with no problems or social stigma or the most feminine of clothes but males must only wear male clothes. She responds, "Yes, but I'm a woman," and you become mad and frustrated. What God given right says that only women can wear pretty clothes and man can't? Is this right chiseled in Moses' tablets? No, it isn't, but it is chiseled in the stone

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tablets of her gender identity as a female. Society has developed the rules of what is masculine and what is feminine and the individual's gender identity has accepted them as being chiseled in stone. certainly they change as society changes and the androgynous wave now occurring is an indication of social changes taking place, but that still doesn't change the average person's gender identity, nor their attitude towards what is male or female, nor their ability to comprehend TVs and TSs.

Many individuals are fascinated by TVs and TSs, they have compassion and understanding to some extent for our dilemma. However, compassion, understanding and acceptance of Boy George does not mean that a TV's loved one is going to understand, accept or have compassion for the TV they know as a male. Boy George doesn't live with them. There is a big difference!

We must accept and understand that although our personal gender identity has never been and never will be strong, that is not the case with the people that we deal with in our lives. We must adapt to their minds and understand that the rationale that we feel explains our behavioral characteristics does not explain them to one whose gender identity is strong and solid. We must disregard these rationales and like the successful sales person, adapt our explanations to conform to the mind set of the person we are dealing with.

Total comprehension of our situation by one who is not afflicted is an impossibility in my opinion. Just as a Causian individual can be compassionate and understanding of the problems of a non-Causian individual in our society but never truly know what it is like to be a non-Causian, so it is for the individuals who understand and are compassionate to our problems. However, by us understanding and accepting an individual's gender identity and doing our best to explain our situation within their comprehension and understanding, hopefully we can expand the understanding and compassion of society for individuals like you and I.

- END -

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POETRY

TRADEOFFS
by
Mike Bradley

At first I was repulsed by his
Cross-dressing, as was he, some-
Times. My sensibilities crawled,
It was depressing. Feminine by
Upbringing and instruction, I blamed
Myself for his renunciation of his
Manhood. I was not enough
A woman. No, I'd say, plaintive,
Sad, when he snapped on a
Pleated skirt, Saturday morning,
Tied himself into an apron and
clicked into the kitchen to begin
The blueberry pancakes. I couldn't
Bear to see the sheen of hose along
His legs, smoother than my own
I'd stay abed, ceiling staring, until
The hunger pangs were insistent as
Labor's contractions, and when he
Brought a tray of steaming hotcakes
To my bed, I'd turn away. I'd
Turn away when he'd present himself,
Back to, for me to zip the
Flowered print. Why, he'd whimper, it's
Only me, still me, the one you
Chose to love--just a dress. I
Didn't find it cute or sexy
It made me ill-
At-ease.

The way to a man's heart is
Through his stomach, my grand-
Mother was told as a pinafored
Little girl. There are oblique
Methodologies. Who doesn't like
To have her own
Way. Who would rather play
The laundromat, Saturday fore-
Noon, than liter with Shoe and
The Perfesser and a second
Cup of water-processed decaf
If he could run the disher and
The vacuum simultaneously, who
Cared what kind of underpants he
Would be wearing. It can be
Fun to have someone slightly,
Willingly subservient. If I
Would teach him how to knit, he'd
Make the leg warmers for my
Niece's Christmas, while I worked
On those damn reports. Who would
Rather cook couscous than sigh
Into the sofa, cool your feet out on
The table and listen, close-
Eyed, to your partner
Dance about from stove to
Table

And I quickly grew accustomed, who
Would not, to the factual assumption
That if I dropped my jacket on
The hall chair, my slacks
Upon the bedroom floor, I'd find
Them hanging trimly in the closet

It's all in reading the gradations.
Time habituates. He does look kind
Of cute in the corduroy jumper. I
Tell him, smiling, when his slip
Is showing, sometimes slip and call him
Missy on the street, then laugh
When he blushes. I've quickly
Come to relish the sense and substance
Of control from being on top
In bed. When he puts on some
Jeans, one autumn Sunday morning
I insist, with pleasurable, autocratic
Humor, that he march himself right back
And don the denim skirt I
Bought for him last night

- END -

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ACCEPTANCE

by
Paula Louise Riordan (MA-0447)

Mr. Rogers of children's television fame never tires of saying to his young viewers, "I like you just the way you are." This notion that "I'm OK you're OK" has become a very popular theme in recent times, uttered in a thousand different ways by psychologists, social workers, enlightened intellectuals of every persuasion, and even pastors, many of whom have moved away from the message of God's wrath to the confident announcement that God loves all his creatures with infinite and unconditional love. But somehow I am apprehensive about people's commitment to these sweeping statements when it comes to the little boy who loves to sneak into his sister's room and put on her dresses.

One afternoon I was watching television and happened upon Mr. Rogers' program and was enthralled at first to learn that he liked me just the way I was. I was wearing a lovely, delicate peignoir gown and had just given myself a pretty feminine manicure. I was sad at being alone and lonely and yearned to be with someone who would like me. But then I began to have second thoughts.

Of course I can hear the response, possibly spoken in kindness but more likely in defensiveness, "Oh we like you all-right, it's just that we don't like what you're doing! after all God loves the sinner but he surely doesn't love the sin. It's not you we don't like, it's your bizarre behaviors." Well is it, now?

Certainly cross-dressing is something that we do, but somehow I have the feeling that transvestite or transsexual activity is not quite like going to a masquerade party dressed as Whistler's Mother, or like Jefferson Davis who, when captured by Federal troops, was wearing his wife's shawl because it was a cold morning and he had left behind all his own baggage when he fled.

Something else is going on with us than just doing bizarre behaviors. Like all human beings we are each a very complicated individual person with our own unique array of feelings and emotions and moods that are an essential part of us even if we do nothing.

We who cross-dress, or yearn to cross-dress as a style of living do so because it is the only way we have of expressing a real and compelling aspect of our personality. God knows, and every cross-dresser knows that accepting ourselves was a huge hurdle in our lives that was not surmounted without a lot of anquish. We know that we cross-dress because there is a feminine dimension (or masculine in the case of women) to our personalities that remains hopelessly frustrated if we do not. Case histories are practically unanimous in recounting the frightful flight from ourselves in our earlier days as we tried everything from cold showers to marathon jogging to literally dampen these feelings and run from them. But the feelings do not go away because they are there.

I do not really expect that most people, even psychologists and pastors and Mr. Rogers will ever really like us the way we are. But wouldn't it be marvelous if people would somehow begin to understand that Paula is not something that I do, but some mysterious way is a real part of the someone who I am.

- END -

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THE EDGE OF THE ILLUSION

by
Julia Matheson (CAN-0701)

I was driving with a friend of mine on our way to lunch recently, and gave him Virginia Prince's invaluable book, "How to be a Woman Though Male."

One passage impressed him so much, that he quoted it to me as we drove. I repeat it here:

"If an FP is going to 'go public', she should certainly not attempt to satisfy his whim of what he would like her to wear, but rather should try to utilize clothing, accessories, jewelry, hairdo, etc., which are appropriate to her size, age, face and figure. She should try to be as good looking a woman as she can under the circumstances seeking to be so authentic that she doesn't stand out for either good or bad, but merely fades and blends into the crowd as just another woman. Blending or fading doesn't mean becoming common, ordinary, or indistinguishable from everybody else.....'fading into' merely suggests that you not exceed the limits of feminine variability in the particular social strata and circumstances where you may find yourself."

What makes my friend's approval of the passage particularly interesting is that he is not your ordinary TV; in fact he is not a TV at all. He is Billy Gene Wallace, a highly professional and original female impersonator who is an interested and sympathetic observer of the heterosexual TV world, without himself being a part of it.

When he sets out to plan one of his stage performances, whether it's as Lisa Minelli in "Cabaret" or as the woman on the phone in Jean Cocteau's "La Voix Humaine", he attempts above all, to be believable as a woman, and this is exactly in line with Virginia Prince's sound advice.

It made me thing of some TV situations which I have avoided because I felt less than comfortable with the illusion of femininity that others were trying to create; for example, the pajama party. Politely, I hope, I turned down the invitation. Among the expected guests were some fairly hefty TVs I had already seen with their physical characteristics remarkably well adapted into a reasonable facsimile of femininity. However I just couldn't accept as pleasing to my perhaps prejudiced eye, those same ladies moving around in flimsy nightdresses.

Am I preaching at you? Indeed I am, but the criterion for what one wears as a TV in company, I suggest, is one's audience. By oneself, the wildest fantasies are fair game. If you want to experience the most exquisite erotic feelings that result from being dressed as Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz, a lady lion tamer in a circus, or a pregnant airline stewardess, acting out one's dreams is one of the joys of transvestism. However, do spare a thought before you bestow this joyous sight on someone else, particularly if you are a little large to be Dorothy, a little too muscular to be convincing in a skimpy circus costume, or too old to be pregnant.

"Going public" to use Virginia Prince's phrase, I suggest, should be extended beyond considering the effect that one would have on the people that one might meet on the street, for one's own self-preservation. Lack of consideration can certainly cause distress by one's spouse, and understandably. However, what some of us forget is that it may also render other transvestites uncomfortable too, particularly in a public, or semi-public situation. a group gathering, even in a comparatively secluded location, can be made much less enjoyable if one of the company is readable or really displeasing to the eye through inappropriate dress.

A real woman may want to create a striking impression, but she also likes it to be a favourable impression, and this includes good taste. The basic canon when considering an item of attire is, does it suit her? How often

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does one hear the phrase, "I wish I could wear that, but I'm too tall/short/slim/heavy...etc."

Even in the field of the professional entertainer, where the audience knows full well that the performer is in reality a male, a good professional female impersonator will endeavour to be sufficiently believable in appearance, if not always in speech or manner, so as to stay on the edge of a titillating sexual illusion.

I think that we can learn this lesson from them, and thus add to the fun of the duality of our sexual personality mix by keeping our appearance within the boundaries set by our basic physical attributes. After all, "real" women do it all the time, and what better justification can there be?

- END -

(Edited from the New Hampshire Times, 8/31/85)

TRANSSEXUALISM: LIFE AFTER THE BIGGEST CHANGE OF ALL

by Ric Blake

Do you remember the year you first heard of or read about Christine Jorgenson? do you remember the date Dr. Richard Raskind made national headlines? Does the date April 15, 1985 mean anything to you? If the answer to these questions was no, then you are part of the majority of men and women in this country. You have probably heard the names and could make an attempt to guess the dates, but the headlines have had little impact on you personally, then or since. For thousands of men and women in the United States this is not the case: these names, dates, and the implications of the events behind the headlines are as important to them as the date of the signing of the Declaration of Independence is to the rest of us. These are the milestones in the history of the understanding and acceptance of a medical condition known as gender dysphoria: transsexualism. By current estimates, there are over 20,000 transsexuals in this country. According to the Southern New Hampshire Gender Identity Service, there are 24 known to their organization; 15 of them live in the greater Manchester area.

The DSM-III (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, American Psychiatric Association, 1980) defines transsexualism as a heterogeneous disorder of gender identity - the sense of knowing to which sex one belongs. The main characteristics of the disorder are stated to be: "...a persistent sense of discomfort and inappropriateness about one's anatomic sex and a persistent wish to be rid of one's genitals and to live as a member of the other sex." Gender dysphoria is a broader diagnostic label than transsexualism and includes all individuals who experience enough discomfort with their biological sex to want sex reassignment.

Transsexualism is not a new phenomenon. In most cultures throughout

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history there have been men and women who lived as the opposite sex. In most instances, these individuals have been revered members of the community; occasionally society has condemned them to torture and death. It was not until 1930 that the first medically supervised adult sex-change operation on record was performed on Danish artist Einar Wegener, who became Lili Elbe. In the same country 22 years later, the case of Christine Jorgenson gained world-wide publicity. A generation later, it is possible to obtain sex reassignment surgery in the United States, Canada and throughout Europe. And for most of us who are not transsexuals, that's where the phenomenon occurs: somewhere else. They don't live in our town; we don't know any transsexuals. But don't be too sure.

A former resident of the Granite State and three current members of New Hampshire Gender Identity Service, located in Derry, agreed to be interviewed for this article. Other than their transsexualism, there is, now or before their change, nothing which would have made them stand out in any crowd, in any town in the state. All four are male-to-female TS's now living as women. Three completed their surgeries between 1979 and 1985; one is scheduled for surgery in November. They range in age from 27 to 42. Each knew she was different from early childhood. Three of the four began cross-dressing by the age of four. Two experimented with homosexuality in adolescence. Three were married and fathered children; all have been divorced. Their pre-surgical incomes and positions placed them in the middle to upper-middle income bracket. Their professions include: electronic equipment maintenance and repair, computer technology, sales, and nursing. In many ways, they are typical or residents in the Granite State; in one devastating and potentially destructive way, they are not. That they have endured a "lifetime of hell" and survived is the reason they have consented to tell their stories.

Beth is 33 years old. She was married as a male for almost 10 years and fathered three children. About her early childhood, she says, "I became aware of my gender dysphoria in grammar school. I knew something was wrong. I became aware of the Christine Jorgenson story when I was nine or 10 and thought: Oh, my God, there's hope. She (Jorgenson) was on television and someone said she used to be a man. I can remember being 11 and going down to the city library to get Jorgenson's book." But it didn't solve the problem, and for years Beth fought against her feeling that she was a girl trapped inside a boy's body. "I went through a very religious phase of my life when I thought that through religion I could overcome it. In high school, I found the theater department which gave me an alternative: you could dare to be different in the theater. By the time I got to college, I admitted that I was gender dysphoric."

For several years, she lived and worked as a woman in California. She considered a sex change and went as far as beginning hormone therapy and scheduling surgery, but at the last minute, she wasn't sure. Determined to live a normal life, she returned to New Hampshire, married, and lived with her wife and children for almost 10 years. During this time, she worked as an administrator but was never comfortable in the male role. "All my life, I tried so hard to be everything everyone though I should be. I had to think every moment of the day: what way do I cross my legs; would mother like them crossed this way; should I cross them that way; is this the way my brother walks; am I sitting right at my desk; did I handle that business meeting well; do you think he (her boss) knows that I'm gender dysphoric or does he think I'm homosexual?"

When she remembers the stress of those years, Beth's voice is soft by edged with hardness as she explains how she survived. "During the last 10 years, it was my children. I thought that I have my family and that's all that's important to me, but as time went on, it was one hell of a price to pay...to live your entire life the way other people wanted you to. I finally couldn't do it any longer."

But the decision was not easy. She decided to resign her lucrative position before she began to live as a woman. "I knew where he (her boss) was

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coming from...his very macho, very straight, heterosexual, normal statements said that there was black and there was white and there never would be grey. He could not deal with any alternative lifestyle." In addition to his possible reaction, she says, "I had 300 people working under me and I thought 300 people telling 300 people who would tell 300 people...I have three children who have to live and grow up in this area, and I don't want them going to school and hearing: 'Oh, that's the little boy whose Daddy became a Mommy.' I didn't want them to have to have that peer pressure. Therefore, I resigned - reasons unknown, burnout is what I told them. The told me to come back if I ever changed my mind, but I'm sure they wouldn't feel that way now after my gender change."

Her first reaction was "...to tell nobody, to just turn away, move away, and start a new life because I didn't know how people would handle it." and how have they handled it? "My friends have been very supportive. for the most part, it's been: "I can't believe that you lived in your own private hell for so long and didn't let anybody know.' Ninety-nine percent of my friends are in favor of what I did; the others just don't understand. Since then many have come back to see the woman they now see, forgetting the man they once knew. They realize that the transition takes place physically in appearance but cosmetically only between your legs, not between your ears. Your brain and your heart remain the same. It is the same person they always knew." Beth's voice is low, almost too low to hear, as she adds, "But the initial shock of looking so differently...some don't handle it well." Especially her immediate family from whom she is estranged, including her mother, her brothers and sisters. Her wife has divorced her, and she is currently fighting for visitation rights in order to see her children.

Has it been worth it? She leans forward and says firmly, "Is it worth it? Giving up my family, my finances, my home, my children? I have to say in losing all of that, I've gained my own identity. I never have the pressure of being on guard. Never! I started cross-living and I no longer had any of the problems I had been trying to camouflage."

And what about the future? "I've closed all the doors I'm going to close, and I've opened new doors and they're extremely positive. I pulled away from the world for six months and lived by myself. But since then, people's reactions have all been very positive. I didn't know how people would deal with it, and I didn't think it would be as accepted as it has. I was really naive about how far people's thinking had come. Ten years ago, when I first thought about doing this, it was unheard of."

For others faced with transsexuality, she states, "Expect nothing. Expect to give it all up. Expect to walk out of it alone. Expect it to be a very lonely journey."

When Terry, age 42, decided to go through the process, she decided not to leave her position as a journeyman technician for a telecommunications company which employs 10,000. as difficult as she though the process would be, she never considered looking for another job. It turned out to be much easier than anticipated, and listening to her describe the way she handled the process, one suspects that her approach helped. "They never suspected that this was a problem I was dealing with. I brought in documents stating that what I was dealing with was a medical problem, treatable only by surgery. Shock was the biggest

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reaction. First, they see me as the macho male because that was what I had to do to hide what was really there; Terry couldn't come out at all. they were shocked that this transformation was going to occur before their eyes. Then they were sympathetic. Before I began cross-dressing, I went to each section supervisor and explained what was going on. The only question I got was what they would call me. I told them and that solved the problem. It's phenomenal that in a (work) community that size that if they didn't accept this problem, they at least respected what I was doing. There was no harassment."

When asked if there was a difference between the way men and women reacted,, Terry smiles and says, "The men were threatened. They would say: 'I just can't imagine you would go through something like this.' Others said they thought it was just a phase. Some said that if I did go through with it, they just couldn't talk with me again. And they still can't deal with it; they won't talk with me. But I respect their wishes. If it's something they can't handle, it's their problem, not mine. As I began to cross-live, women began to open up to me and have become intimate friends. The only reaction I had was from one woman who said, 'I can't believe you pulled it off, but you did.'" What was the first morning like? "That morning, standing in front of my bathroom mirror, I kept asking myself: do you really want to do this? I got to the parking lot at work and said to myself: you can turn back now,, you don't have to do this. But I did. I was in the closet so long, that I can't do that anymore - I don't have to do that anymore. You have to remember that a TS is very afraid of allowing the world to know who they are. Most of them have hidden it since they were five years old or younger."

Later that first day, the "sight-seers" began wandering by her section to look. First a few, then a steady stream. Terry estimates that there were at least 250 who "made the tour" before the end of the shift. "They had read about Christine Jorgenson and Karen Ulane, and here was an honest-to-God TS in their midst. And they had to look." One of the people in her section eventually put up a sign that spelled out the department's support as well as stating their opinion of the curious. It said 'Welcome to the zoo. We have no donkey but all you asses are welcome!' Terry said, "It shocked me. I didn't expect that kind of support. And these people weren't really my friends before the change; these people who I had hardly spoken to before, were out there trying to protect me from others in the building. It was still hard though. I would walk down the aisle (in another part of the plant), and an entire department would stand up and stare."

Terry has recently completed her surgery and will return to work and a promotion in a few weeks.

Roberta, age 27, completed her surgery six years ago, and like Terry worked for a large computer firm in the state before and after the change. The company supported her through the process. But as she relates the reaction of her colleagues, her voice is without inflection, flat, "It was very tough. A lot of people had heard my name. A lot of people were artificially trying to be my friend because I gave them the opportunity to ask me questions."

When asked what made it easier for her, she relates, "There was this one friend who I thought...it might be a little hard for him to deal with. One day he poked his head into my office and said that he had heard some rumors about me. Knowing what it was about, I said, 'Well, they're probably true.' He said, 'If they're true, then you have more guts than anybody I know and I'm proud to be your friend.' I was astounded. It made my day. There were many fair-weathered friends," she says then pauses before adding, "Maybe not. Maybe I was just very self-conscious, but it was very difficult."

Through the change, Roberta had two friends from high school who supported her, and although she felt she was going to have to "abandon" her family at the time, they have since resolved their issues and remain good friends.

During the last six years, she has few contacts with those she knew before her sex change and today, has nothing

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to do with any other TS's. She has no desire to be involved in a support group nor feels any need to help others struggling with transsexualism. Her greatest concern is that her past will follow her through each career move, and she has moved to Boston to put as much distance as possible between today and yesterday yet remain close to her family and life-long friends. Her bitterness is evident in her last statement of the interview. "I've never wanted to feel like some kind of salesperson for this thing. I'm not very proud of this. It's none of anybody's business. I certainly wish there had been some other way. You know, I really got cheated; I had a major birth defect. I would have preferred to have done it very quietly and just got on with my life. I've got nothing to prove."

Linda, age 40, is recovering from her surgery of three weeks ago and is tired, but she is animated as she explains the difference between what her life was like before she began the transition from a male to female. "Then, I would live according to society's dictates. I didn't feel anything; no anger, no sadness, no joy. I was numb. I was the perfect employee, the perfect husband, but I was flat. I was living for everybody else. During this two year process, I suddenly began to feel emotions; some of it was neat, a lot of it hurt. I was discovering myself as a person who was fundamentally female, who had always been female, and in order to do this role playing (living as a male), I would go as far as possible to hide it. I really became aware of my gender dysphoria four or five years ago when I felt something was seriously wrong. I was an actor, going through life on the outside of all those characters I was playing."

And now? "Now, all of a sudden I feel free. I'm me. I don't have to pretend anymore. During early adulthood, an actual person was created. this person (Linda) was a mirror image of my male side. Neither was real.

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And this went on for 20 years of marriage. I was never comfortable with this dual role, but I did know that the time I could spend as female was carefree. Now? Whatever this is, is me. I never liked having to cover up, and all of a sudden, there is nothing to cover up, there is nothing to lie about. All the pressure is gone."

But the price is high. Linda has lost her wife, her son, her expensive home in the suburbs, most of her friends, and the week after her surgery she was fired from her $50,000 a year position as a district sales manager for a national electronics company. Transsexualism was never mentioned by the company, but because of her 20 year unblemished record, Linda is convinced that is the reason. She is seeking legal counsel but expects little redress.

It isn't all painful. There are some brighter and often humorous moments that occur. Terry had heard horror stories about the response when TS's had to change their names on legal documents. However, when in concord to have her name changed on her drivers license, she went directly to the director who treated her with respect and consideration. "It was a pleasant surprise," she says. "He brought me down to the heads of each office and took me through the process. Everyone was very respectful. I was amazed." When Beth was completing the same procedure at her local town hall, she was anxious until the clerk smiled, winked and whispered, "No problem, you're the fourteenth."

None of these four individuals regrets her decision, but all agree that support is critical. About the self-help group available through new Hampshire Gender Identity Service, Charles Ihlenfeld, M.D., a New York psychiatrist who has worked with several members of the group, states, "People who haven't had anyone (a support system) have a tough time. The group gives them a support base from which they can carry on the rest of their lives. One of the things that happens to people in larger urban areas is that they seek anonymity. They really don't want anyone to know about this; they really don't want people at work to know. They will leave jobs just before or just after surgery and move to another city, and if things go well, they will try to blend into the fabric of society as seamlessly as possible. This is fairly impossible in a smaller locale where everybody knows everybody. In a situation like this the support group of your peers is extraordinarily important. They need a peer group because by and large families don't understand what it's all about. They (TS's) need a chance to talk with someone else who is either going through or has gone through part of the process already with whom they can identify and against whom they can measure themselves. Just to talk to someone who understands is important."

Dr. Ihlenfeld recommends that the TS seek professional help as soon as possible. He explains, "This is not the sort of thing people can do without medical help. They need to make some entry into the system, and I think the first place would be to discuss it with somebody who's had this kind of experience."

The problem is, however, that there are few professionals who understand transsexuals because the numbers of TS's are so small that a therapist or family physician may work a lifetime without being faced with the problem. David Sell, M.D., a Boston psychiatrist who has worked with many TS's, states, "There are very few places to go. There are several areas throughout the country that have gender clinics that take care of the entire process, but you would have to move to that city to do that because it's a several year process. Most mental health clinics have extremely limited experience with this, and they don't know what these people want to know: the legal situation, (cross-) dressing, make-up, electrolysis, changes in their bodies with hormone therapy...most therapists don't know anything about these things. A lot of transsexuals pass through the mental health system in community clinics and don't feel free to mention it."

This failure to find help was described by TS's interviewed who told of going for help to family physicians and local human service agencies where they met a wall of empathetic ignorance or worse. Terry was told at age 19 by

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a psychiatrist: "This is just a phase. Get married and have some kids." She believed the "father figure" and lived a 20 year nightmare which resulted in her suicide attempt several years ago.

What does the professional community and the general public need to know about transsexualism? Dr. Ihlenfeld states, "This is a real condition; it's an affliction. It's something people don't ask for. We don't know what causes it, whether it's something that comes from learning or is biologically determined. There is probably some kind of inborn vulnerability. I believe it's a combination of nature and nurture. It tends to be consistent over the lifetime of the individual, although the intensity may rise and fall with other circumstances in the patient's life." He reports that 80 to 90 percent of the patients who state initially they want to change their sex do not complete the process." Of those who do, Dr. Sell says, "As far as I know there is no successful treatment for the condition except to go through this metamorphosis, and most people who are genuine TS's who go through the process seem to be much relieved from their distress. When you consider the enormity of the process in respect to time, pain, money, disruption it's quite indicative that they describe it as worthwhile. Very few people will go through something like this."

"The public needs to know about TS's," explained by Dr. Ihlenfeld. "By and large, these people want to blend into society and live their own lives. They are driven to make themselves as comfortable as possible with themselves. Once that's done their concerns are pretty much the same as everyone else's; job, family...just like normal people."

- END -

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(Edited from the Carpinteria Herald,
Carpinteria CA., 12/13/85)

BEING A TRANSVESTITE A WAY OF LIFE FOR GRANT HOOKER

by
Debra Rosen, Staff Writer

Double-takes and stares are nothing new to Grant Hooker. At 38, he has developed a passion for French love songs, boating and women's clothes. Grant is apparently Carpinteria's only known transvestite.

Grant'slife story reads like a novel. It is the tale of a wealthy family and their travels across two continents, winding through foreign boarding schools and a maze of sanitariums.

It is also the story of a lonely man's attempts to understand and ultimately accept a lifestyle that has kept him separated from his family and, in fact, society for most of his young life.

"I remember telling my brother Kelly once I wanted to wear a woman's bra. He laughed it off as a stupid idea."

That "stupid idea" was all too soon to become an integral part of Grant's life.

Webster defines transvestism as "the adoption of the dress and often the behavior of the opposite sex." While at any given time you can find Grant in the attire of a woman, he claims he has no desire to actually be one.

Transvestites, according to Grant, usually go to great lengths to pass as women. Training their voices to sound more feminine, wearing false breasts and using hair electrolysis are all tricks used to accomplish this. But even in the world of transvestism, Grant varies from the norm. He hasn't made any attempts to go the full route.

"I haven't felt the motivation to go that far. I'm a bad goal setter. I'm very undecided as to what I want to do or where I want to go."

Grant feels most attractive when wearing dresses or blouses and slacks. He likes nylons and nurses' shoes but wears heels on occasion. His nails are always manicured and his jewelry is high fashion.

Over the years, Grant has learned to master the difficulties of curling irons and setting gel but not to cope with the pains of a lonely childhood.

Sitting in his modest apartment talking quietly, Grant is wrapped in a shroud of self consciousness. Not, as most would think, because he is a transvestite, but because he spent so many years unaware of the fact he was different.

Born in New York, Grant is the oldest of five children. In his early childhood years, the Hooker family moved often. Grant remembers growing up in a family in which money substituted for love.

Although his mother now resides in Carpinteria, the rest of his family is scattered throughout Europe. Grant sees his brothers and sisters seldom, his father even less.

"My dad has given up on me. All he talks about is whether I'm boxing or if I have muscles," Grant sighs. "I love him but he doesn't confront my situation."

There is little communication between them, the painful continuation of a lonely childhood.

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From early on, the lack of family bonds bothered Grant. a sensitive boy, he longed for the closeness and support a solid home life provides.

When his family began breaking up, Grant was stunned. His father left the family and headed for Europe. His mother was soon to follow, promising she would send for the children as soon as she could. The small amount of security Grant had known was rapidly being swept away.

When the children rejoined her in Milan, Italy, Grant experienced a sever case of culture shock. Always the most sensitive of the family, Grant felt lost.

Isolated in his incapability to communicate his feeling, Grant soon began to withdraw into himself. He spent large amounts of time alone.

"I wasn't happy in Italy. I felt terribly up-rooted and I really had no one to talk to about my feelings," Grant said.

A year after arriving in Milan, Grant was sent off to a boarding school, Aiglon college. Highly competitive, the school placed Grant under considerable anxiety. It was the beginning of a long separation from his family.

Over the next several months, a mixture of stress, climate change and poor health care led to a rapid decline in Grant's health.

What started as cramps in his left leg quickly grew worse. The matron in charge of him believed Grant's complaints were just an attempt to grab attention. She brushed them off and Grant was kept at school untreated.

Two weeks after the end of the school semester, Grant entered the Clinique Generale de Geneve, a French speaking hospital, suffering from blood poisoning. The lack of early medical attention had left him with abscesses in both his shoulder and his groin.

As a result of his weakened condition, Grant was unable to walk. He remained in the hospital for three months.

Grant recounts the experience with horror. Shut off emotionally from his family he felt alone. It was as if the neglect Grant had felt inside was now being manifested through his physical debilitation.

"I had no concern for health at that time in my life, no self awareness of my special personal needs. I just had a vague idea I was a little different somehow. but I had no inkling as to how."

While relating this painful part of his past, Grant paused. He shifted uncomfortably in his chair. When questioned, Grant sighed.

"I find it a little embarrassing that I was so naive. No one ever told me I was different. I guess I just accepted too much."

In a softer voice Grant added, "I never really got well until just recently."

When finally released from the hospital, he was placed in Bellevue, a sanitarium in German-speaking Switzerland.

"My mother and stepfather told me they could no longer handle me," Grant recalls.

he spent the next 11 years moving from one sanitarium to another. And still, he had no idea anything was wrong with him.

speaking as someone who has known extreme humiliation, Grant accuses his therapists of being kooks. "They never tried to see where I was coming from. They just tried extreme methods to force my idiosyncrasies out of me."

Throughout this period, Grant was wearing some extent of women's clothing almost constantly. Often sporting ribbons in his hair and a full beard, Grant's appearance was looked upon by the doctors with obvious disapproval.

When Grant finally acquired his own custody, he was 27 years old.

Once on his own, he developed an interest in weightlifting. He joined a body building club and began working out. It was a new beginning for him.

Then Grant learned his mother was returning to the United States. As a foreigner with no job and a history of mental illness, Grant was forced to accompany her.

They settled in Carpinteria. Whether it was the new environment or the years of therapy, Grant is unsure, but once there he abandoned his transvestite tendencies.

he continued his weightlifting interests and, through the YMCA, also

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developed an interest in boxing.

For five years, from 1975 to 1980, Grant dressed normally. Then two things happened. He fell in love and he learned what a transvestite was.

For reasons Grant still does not understand, his urge to wear women's clothes returned the stronger his love for his girlfriend became.

At this same time Grant stumbled upon the term "transvestite" while reading a magazine. Something clicked. Grant finally found a label that fit.

Today, Grant is just beginning to understand himself. It is hard but, he feels, not as painful as learning to deal with others.

"The world is set up for others not for me. Events come and go and I seem to be left out of them."

"I really want to communicate with people, especially men. Although, I seem to get along better with women."

In an effort to overcome this incapability of speaking openly with people, Grant has recently forced himself to join a men's club in Santa Barbara and become a member of Toastmasters.

Looking to the future, Grant has a vision. "For the first time in my life, I want to get along with people in a deep way. I want to be cherished for who I am, not what I am."

It's not asking much, just a life in which he is accepted.

- END -

(** Those wishing to communicate with Grant may do so by following the mail forwarding instructions, and write: Angelique B. CA-0578)

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BOOK REVIEW

THE UNINVITED DILEMMA:
A Question Of Gender
by Kim Elizabeth Stuart
Metamorphous Press, 1983, 173 pps

Reviewed by Rupert Raj

There have been a number of books published on transsexualism. Some are medical references and psychological 'textbooks' on the subject written by professional gender specialists. Others are testimonials of their lives "before" and "after", written by transsexuals themselves. 'The Uninvited Dilemma' is neither a clinical study nor an autobiography. Kim Stuart's unique work is about the attitudes and feelings transsexual people have, as well as how transsexuals are viewed by society and why. The author -- who is neither therapist nor transsexual, is a writer by trade -- presents the subject as it is experienced by transsexuals. She interviewed and talked with over 100 transsexuals in the San Francisco Bay area in an attempt to better explain the condition of transsexualism on a realistic basis.

'The Uninvited Dilemma' is the most objective examination of transsexualism I have read," says Lin Fraser, a therapist who works with transsexuals on a daily basis. "The author does not confine her research or her writing to only one aspect of the dilemma. She looks at the whole person, not just individual aspects of behavior. Ms Stuart digs deep, and she draws a realistic picture of the feelings transsexuals have, how the dilemma affects their lives as children and adults, and how it affects those

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around them....the relationships transsexuals have with their loved ones....how very young children are likely to react to transsexual parents...Ms Stuart has now provided everyone with an accurate, up-to-date and very understandable picture of the transsexual dilemma."

This comprehensive but compact book covers a wide range of topics relevant to transsexualism: gender and sexuality; relationships with family members, spouses and children; the school years and how the condition affects adults; medical, surgical and psychiatric care; legal, administrative, financial and social problems, life after surgery; sex-partner preferences; androgyny; possible causes of the condition; and, how to find some common ground of understanding between transsexuals and their loved ones.

Yet, although positivistic and humanistic in her approach and her tone, Stuart advises, "Readers should keep in mind that this is not a book of advocacy concerning transsexualism. far from it. Throughout the book I have cautioned that the transsexual process is a treacherous path which can cause pain, suffering, and inflict deep emotional wounds....There is a good deal of pain reflected in the book, because many transsexuals experience a lot of pain. The issues surrounding transsexualism are terribly complex, and I have tried to unravel those complexities, and make them more understandable to all who are interested in this condition...."

Stuart accomplishes this task by supplying badly needed information written in a clear, concise style. She manages to translate complex, biological, psychological and medical terms into interesting language that is easy to understand. In particular, she provides a glossary of 15 relevant terms in the very first chapter. In the second, she gives the reader a graphic understanding of what gender means, and explains the difference between gender and sexuality. This often unclear distinction is further clarified by her discussion of male-to-female transsexuals who are lesbian oriented and female to male transsexuals who identify themselves as gay men.

The author also helps the reader to draw a distinction between transsexualism and transvestism by calling the former a gender condition and the latter a sexual condition. Stuart tells us she believes these categories are mutually exclusive and she employs two descriptive terms to buttress her argument: "Gender discomfort" (which is characteristic of all transsexuals but occurs in only some transvestites), and "gender confusion" (which is experienced by a greater number of transvestites than transsexuals).

Fraser says she admires Stuart's "very careful reasoning" respecting these "very complex issues", and finds the author's advice to the reader that an opinion or theory is just that - "very refreshing". However, Fraser states that the substance of 'The Uninvited Dilemma' is not theory or speculation but is based on "painstaking research". In fact, Stuart talked with -- in addition to more than 100 transsexuals -- a number of transvestites and homosexuals, and she also consulted physicians and therapists experienced in dealing with transsexuals. Fraser says the author's conclusions about transsexualism are "completely in accord" with her own years of clinical experience as a therapist, and she "confirms the validity of this book "in almost every respect".

Stuart -- perhaps because she is an outsider, an objective reporter/writer -- tries not to take sides in the frequent conflict between psychotherapist and transsexual

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patient: "Many transsexuals...have very...hostile attitudes toward the...medical and mental health professions because of the rigorous requirements they have established...for persons to pursue gender congruity.... Many of the resentments transsexuals...have seem fully justified when put in perspective, but those who approach the system with chips on their shoulders are simply conducting exercises in futility.... Most therapists I have met who treat transsexuals are very dedicated, and have the welfare of their patients uppermost in their minds. Many of the transsexuals I interviewed would disagree...No doubt there are some therapists who are not responsible; but,...it is my impression that most therapists do have the best interests of their patients at heart."

On the controversial question of psychotherapy versus sex-reassignment surgery, Stuart's personal feeling is that transsexuals should be encouraged by therapists to explore "any and all alternatives to gender congruity surgery." She concedes it is "certainly a solution for a few" and should be "totally legitimized," for them, but she adds that those who do successfully pursue "gender congruity" through surgery endure a great deal of "agonizing pain and physical suffering" which leaves indelible scars which remain for life." Stuart reiterates her position: "Gender congruity should be a last resort, not a first option."

I wholeheartedly recommend 'The Uninvited Dilemma', and agree with Fraser: "This book should be required reading for all who study gender and human sexuality, and it should find its way into the libraries of all persons in the medical and health professions, because it will arm them with current, accurate, and much needed information about a widely misunderstood condition.... Not only will (it) be of great help to transsexuals and their families, but it will do much to dispel the many misconceptions the general public and some transsexuals have about the condition. It also should help transsexuals throw off some of the sense of guilt they have, and be able to confront their dilemmas without the stigma of responsibility."

- END -

(** Copies of 'THE UNINVITED DILEMMA' can be ordered from: Metamorphosis Medical Research Foundation (MMRF), P.O. Box 5963, Station 'A', Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1P4. Cloth: $18, Paper: $10. Please add $2 for first book and $.50 for each additional book. Payable in U.S. Funds!! A research supplement compiled by Kim Elizabeth Stuart is also available for $10 + $.50 postage & handling.)

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BIOGRAPHY

ON THE ROAD TO BRUSSELS

by
Veronica Jean Brown (MA-0632)

On December 10, 1985 in Brussels Belgium, I had sex re-assignment surgery. My journey to Brussels began eight years and two months earlier, a journey that took me through places and experiences I thought happened only to other people.

My first crossdressing experience came when I was twelve - one rainy saturday afternoon, in the attic, trying on mommy's clothes. Sound familiar? There was something magical in the way mommy's old dresses, heels and undergarments transformed my slender boyish frame, and I dreamed of what it would be like to be a woman. But, guilt and fear overcame me, and I packed the clothes back into the trunks and vowed not to do it again.

It was a vow I broke more times than I can remember. As time went along I found that it was not the feeling of the clothes that excited me, but the way my male body was hidden and transformed. I realized that masquerading as a woman was not enough. I wanted to BE a woman totally. This feeling was painfully apparent during my high school years as I saw the girls changing into women, and the boys changing into men. I did not want to become a man, but wished with all my boyish heart to be truly one of the girls. The reality was in high school the boys considered me different, or less masculine than they, while the girls saw me an inept, clumsy male. I suffered jeers, taunts and cries of queer from the boys and laughter and ridicule from the girls. I couldn't compete in the boy's world and wasn't accepted as a peer with the girls.

I learned to avoid the realm of the male and gave up on ever having a platonic friendship with a girl. Somewhere I had read about doctors turning men into women through surgery. My fantasies of having this sex change surgery done to me filled my dreams and waking hours and some day in the future, I wanted to return to a class reunion, transformed, beautiful and accepted by all. I also fantasized of someday returning to my home town to live as a woman, and pass amongst my former friends and relatives without being recognized.

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But, I put my dreams aside, and bowed to peer pressure. At 21 I married a high school sweetheart. By 24 I was in the middle of a "normal" male adult life, with a child, a mortgage, new car payments and the other trappings. I tried to live, act and think like a young "normal" male. It didn't work.

The urge to dress in my wife's things would not stay away. My body had lost the slender boyish look and the few times I cross-dressed brought momentary relief though I hated the reflection in the mirror. I did not look like a woman, but instead was a man who appeared ridiculous wearing female clothes. I hated the ungraceful broadness and angularity of my body. I hated my genitals. I longed so much to have soft, feminine curves, long hair and the rest of the female attributes. I could not be a man in woman's clothes. I needed more than the fantasy world of cross-dressing.

The years went and with their passage came changes; a move to Cape Cod, a different job, a new house, another child. The feminine fantasies persisted and within me grew dissatisfaction with my marriage, my job, and my entire life. My existence was without joy, without feeling good about myself and my male accomplishments.

It is perhaps unfair to blame the Arab Oil Embargo of '73, but that was the turning point in my life. I nearly lost my job in those dark times of gas rationing and soaring costs of living. Longing for simpler, happier times, I tried to persuade my wife to return to the familiar surroundings of our home town. Another woman came into my life instead, and my marriage ended with divorce. I left my home on cape Cod and returned to the Springfield area with nothing to show from my nine years of married life except an old car, my clothes, and some books.

My life as a man nearly came to a halt. Thoughts of suicide frequented my mind but I found a genuine friendship in my new female friend. I shared with her my secret desire to be a female, but she thought I would not go through with it. I went to a Springfield doctor in September of 1977 and he started me on weekly hormone shots. Though I was still very much a man on the outside, I was happy inside because I had begun my journey towards becoming a total woman.

During each weekly visit, the doctor examined my genitals for lumps and swelling. This led to his stimulating my genitals to determine my levels of feminine response. My heightened emotional level for having started hormone therapy prevented me from seeing the true reason for this unusual treatment. The doctor was a pervert and used me for his own sexual pleasures. Eventually I was seduced by this man in his examining room. This happened a number of times and at first, I was curious about having a relationship with a man. My body hadn't changed much and since I knew I wasn't homosexual, this repeated act caused me grief - but I was afraid of not getting hormones. I learned how to control my body to resist his advances and he soon left me alone.

After four years of hormone treatment, the doctor refused to provide hormones for me. My male body had small breasts and few of the other expected changes had happened. I had been cheated these four years as the doctor had no intentions of allowing me to progress further. I contacted a transsexual counselor in New York and after a number of expensive sessions, was referred to a New York City endocrinologist for hormone therapy. After an extensive physical examination, I was started on estrogen.

By the following July my body had undergone more feminine changes than during the previous four years with the Springfield doctor. the monthly trips to my counselor plus expensive electrolysis left me little extra to save for the surgery. I had lived eight years with my female friend and in many respects had a better life with her than with my wife, but we finally had to split up. Once again, as when I left my wife years ago, I had little money, no car, no license, and only a small room to live in.

I spent that year getting my life and mind set in order. My body had gone through major changes now that I was getting the proper medical care. That summer, I began my first crude attempts at crossdressing in public - with horrendous results. Though there were many feminizing changes, I hadn't

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had enough electrolysis and my body was still too masculine to pass as a female. At the same time, there were enough changes for people at work to ask questions. In August I announced to my employers of my impending sex change and made my gender transition on the job with little difficulty. I could not make a drastic change in my physical appearance as I had little skills in makeup and in dressing feminine.

In April 1984, while on a saturday bus trip to New York City, I saw my first TV. I stood in line on the observation deck of the Empire State Building, waiting for the elevator for the excursion to the top floor. this crossdresser was much taller than I was and wore a powder blue sun dress, a flowered, wide brimmed hat, white gloves and high heels. His calves were as big as my thighs. It was obvious to everyone there this was a man, a very big man in drag, and he seemed proud of it.

I wore my usual fare of jeans, a woman's casual top and sneakers. I never considered myself to be a 'TV', and never wore female clothing for its own sake. Rather, it was important for me to blend in with the majority of the drab female population, while bringing as little attention to myself as possible. My method worked most of the time, for while I stood in line for the elevator, two young men of Italian descent who stood next to me, called attention to this beautiful, but large TV, while completely ignoring me.

Living alone in a city near my home town, with little money and without friends wasn't a happy time for me. My only contact with others like myself was through letters and the various TV/TS publications. One of my penpals lived nearby and I invited him to accompany me to my 20th high school class reunion which was to be held in early May. He accepted to my amazement and that was the night of my coming out.

My hair was curly though still too short, and my shoes didn't match my black chemise, but I did cause a stir amongst my former classmates. Oh yes, I had returned to a class reunion as I dreamed about years before and I was transformed but certainly not beautiful nor accepted. I expected to win the 'most changed' award, but instead was ignored and pointed at for most of the evening. It wasn't supposed to have been like that.

To find and meet others like myself, I attended the Tiffany Provincetown Outing at Cape Cod in June. An eight hour bus ride from Springfield brought me to the bus stop near the town wharf. I nervously carried my bags to the Gifford House and walked into the lobby. The encounter with the TV at the Empire State Building had been interesting as he helped to take attention away from me. But here, all around me in the lobby were many transvestites. While they were dressed in female clothes, none seemed to make any attempt to act feminine.

I was terrified, and wanted to run out the door, but my bus had departed back to Hyannis and I was stuck there for the weekend. Someone with a friendly, pleasant face waved to me from across the room. Merissa Sherrill Lynn stood by the desk and called me over. It was merissa who put my fears to rest and made me feel comfortable.

Merissa introduced me to Susan C. Huxford, a post-op from Canada. A lively discussion between us ensued in my room later and I felt relieved that I had come to this outing. I needed friends in the worst way and wouldn't find them back in Springfield. I attended a pajama party that night, one of the first parties of any kind I had been invited to during my life. I had come here to meet people and make friends and I was going to do just that.

I met many interesting people. Among them was Harriet Lane, who operated a TV/TS club in Connecticut. I had dinner with Harry on that final night with two other new friends. It was one of the best weekends I had known in a long time. I was accepted by everyone as a person - quite a difference from the ridicule I had known for much of my life. Merissa Lynn and the participants of the 1984 Tiffany Outing certainly made me feel welcome.

Twice a month for the rest of the year I went to Harriet Lane's for parties. I was introduced to the realm of feminine dressing with wigs, dresses, and makeup. I had much to

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learn. However, I was soon back to wearing my jeans and T-shirts, and not wearing wigs and dresses. (I was well into my real life test of full time cross living, and was 'passing' most of the time, and had no interest in frilly clothes.)

In November I wrote to the Reverend Canon Clinton Jones and asked for information about the XX Club, and didn't get an answer until February. At my first XX Club meeting, everyone thought I was a post-op and they were surprised to find out otherwise. I made a new friend from the Springfield area and learned from her the requirements of the gender clinic. I saw a way out of my expensive once a month trips for counseling and my bi-monthly visits to the endocrinologist in New York City.

In April, I went before the gender clinic board and was accepted for hormone therapy and received surgery approval. My new friend asked me to move into her home - and a day before the 1985 Tiffany Spring Outing, I did. By doing so I accomplished another life long dream - to live in my home town as a woman, just a half-mile from the house my parents owned when I was in high school.

The 1985 outing was different from the previous year. I was well into the first year of full time cross-living and had surgery approval. I felt fortunate to pass as a middle aged woman without the need for wigs, makeup and other aids. Indeed, I was a plain girl with no other desires from life than to be recognized and to socialize in the straight world as such.

As I had lived on Cape Cod back in the 70's, Provincetown meant more to me than the Tiffany outing. The week passed quickly and I saw old friends. Among the new ones were other transsexuals, looking forward to the day when they would start hormone therapy.

An ever widening gap existed between me and the TVs. I was accepted, just as I accepted them, but I knew I was different. As deviates from normal society along with the gays and lesbians of Provincetown, it was good to find common ground, support and friendship. To this day, I will never understand the reasons for cross-dressing or the need to become the opposite gender, but it's good to have support. I owe much to the Tiffany Club, the Gateway Gender Alliance and the many people and medical professionals who helped me over the years, as well as people from the straight world who provided friendship and support in spite of not understanding my intentions.

Things moved quickly during the rest of 1985. Michelle Hunt, a representative for a surgeon in Brussels, and I had been writing since March. In august, she told me of two open surgery dates in late November or early December. She toured the states during the summer and stayed overnight with us. We took her to the XX Club meeting on September 14th where she presented her Brussels program. Reaction there was not good. Many asked, how could a $2900 sex re-assignment surgery be as good as Dr. Biber in Colorado, or Dr. Granato in New York? And, why doesn't this Brussels surgeon want his name revealed? Michelle was accused of running a con game and of arranging surgery on demand.

People like Michelle Hunt, who have such honesty and dedication come along so rarely, it is easy to see why people have doubts. Michelle Hunt has reasons for providing this Brussels connection and could easily charge a fee of $4000, but she won't. The doctor is an American trained plastic surgeon and does not want to be deluged

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with letters from american transsexuals. he is kept busy with transsexual patients from France, England, and Europe.

Once the surgery date was confirmed, we obtained female passports, made flight reservations with Peoples Express, and told our employers about our plans. We arrived in early December and spent the next three weeks enjoying a Brussels vacation. I never had doubts that this was what I wanted. The past forty years as a male are over and I eagerly look forward to the next forty as a woman. It seems like I was never a guy, and in many ways, I never was. I've been clearing away the mental cobwebs these past weeks. My mindset and the way I view life has changed. I am no longer a cross-dresser, or a transsexual. I am female. I've got what I've always wanted ... and there can be no more excuses.

- END -

A LITTLE UNDERSTANDING

by

JoAnn renee Cone, PhD (CO-0832)

Transsexualism, transvestism and cross-dressing are as old as mankind itself - probably older than the touted "oldest profession" as well. Certainly the ancient Greeks understood this myth, as did the sand-swept pharaohs of long ago Egypt. Several quotations are to be noted from the scrolls of Confucious. Every single one of the North American indian tribes dealt with these "different" clansmen by giving them the status of a 'third' sex. (This is even more interesting when considering that most of these tribes evolved apart without contact with one another for centuries, but evolved on the same plane when thinking of the human spirit. Though these indians did not have a specific place in the tribe they were not considered outcasts either but were looked after by their brethren.) Closer to our civilization (and I use that literary term loosely), one of the governors of the first thirteen colonies was quite a flagrant transvestite, not trying to hide his proclivities, and yet he was elected governor holding the highest respect of the people he served.

In 1985 we tend to think of transvestism and transsexualism as a "new" problem or concern, or at least new since the turn of the century. This is our perceived mindset regardless of how skewed it really is. Try to think of your grandfather adorned in feminine attire. Yet, it seems that societies prior to the yuppiedom of the '80s were troubled less by it than our current intellectual, aware society. Can it be that technologically we have made mammoth strides, but have made an equal digression of social norms?

In past centuries part of the reason transvestism and transsexualism was looked upon differently was the styles of the times. For instance, let's look at something we consider very chic and feminine today: nylon stockings. By 1000 A.D. long stocking had become fashionable among European noblemen (note I said MEN). In the 1100's, macho males of Western Europe began wearing brightly colored stockings under their tunics - obviously the first stocking in "fashion colors". Women started wearing stockings around 1370 A.D., but it was the men who were showing off their gams. In 1509, Henry VIII became the first member of English royalty to wear a pair of silk

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stockings, sent as a gift from Spain. Apparently he started a trend. By the 1800s, when women's skirts had risen to the ankle (how daring), stockings held by garters were a wardrobe staple. But it hasn't been until the las 130 years or so that wearing of stockings for men has not been fashionable. Sometime shortly before the Civil War the trend swung the other way to women. But here again, in what we consider the Medieval times, men wore much more lace and brightly colored clothes than did women of the era. By today's standards males of centuries past dressed considerably more femininely than today, although by their standards it was not considered so since it simply was what men wore.

There was a brief ripple in the early 1970's when an entrepreneur marketed a pantyhose specifically designed for men (replete with a fly in front). However, the image was blown out of the water in a big way when a complimentary pair was sent to news anchor Harry Reasoner, who wore them for a day and then made public his opinion of this new product. Needless to say his thoughts influenced public opinion. What would have happened if they had been marketed without much ado or fanfare, and simply displayed in the men's clothing sections of prominent department stores? Probably they would have caught on. But, after Harry Reasoner made his opinions public, pantyhose for men became history.

Everything we know or do, even the clothes we wear, is learned behavior. Thomas Alva Edison said it best, "Even among geniuses there are few truly original thoughts." In years past we learned basically from home teachings, church and school in that order. To say the least, there was very little outside intervention. Public opinion was a relatively minor factor. Today, with micro-chips and satellites and television, a fifth grader can immediately witness a war as it happens halfway around the world. Today there is immediate access to information, and considerable outside intervention. 'Public opinion' is now a major factor, as witnessed by Harry Reasoner's affect on panty hose.

In Tapestry issue #46, 'Susan's Story' portrayed a classic example of 'learned societal reaction' by the use of the word 'pervert' in the opening phrases. Pardon the vernacular, but this is what red-neck America has taught willing minds to believe about transvestites and transsexuals. They have been taught that cross-dressing is not normal. However, I have found that among more learned people minds and opinions tend to be more open and much more tolerant. Perhaps they have taken the time to study our dilemma and understand our concern. They can empathize. But, there again, they are willing to take the time.

Yes, we have indeed been given some bad press, and only time and positive information can change those deep-rooted negative philosophies. Society was just beginning to accept (and I use that word gingerly at best) homosexuality. Then what happened? Society got a literal dose of AIDS, and, unfortunately, found it linked to the gay community, plunging social tolerance back farther than it has been since before World War II. the coup de grace was the transference of AIDs through a plethora of means to the heterosexual community. I specifically mention this predicament since TVs and TSs as a group are thrown into the kettle with the gay community.

Society perceives us as gay, but just how do we perceive ourselves? Society is not going to change its perception of us until we truly have a handle on who and what we are, and then can present that unified self-opinion to the world. But change comes slowly.

Just by virtue of how we see ourselves, many of us are naturally effeminate in mannerisms and communication regardless of our manner of dress. Mostly this is attributed to transsexuals, but some transvestites fall into this cubbyhole as well. Many gays are also effeminate, and society simply sees externalities and normally will not take the time to explore the matter further. With that we by nature cannot break the tie to the gay community. Shows like 'Phil Donahue' have done some good. Dustin Hoffman gave the portrayal in "Tootsie" that clothes certainly don't make the man (or woman). He played a warm, sensitive albeit frustrated person, who was basically the same individual in a dress or more male oriented attire. His situation soft-peddled the basic

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idea that some men trapped by mere circumstances must don a more feminine lifestyle.

Part of the public's confusion about our inner segment comés from our own internal confusion about ourselves. Other people cannot understand the difference between a TV, TS or gay if we do not understand it either. In psychology usually there are a list of rules by which to categorize someone. If you act like A,B,C, you are labeled accordingly. We find that noted psychiatrists, psychologists and counselors are just as - if not more - confused about us than we are. Many simply evade the issue since it strikes home to their own inadequacies or inner fears. Others are willing to try, but have not had the training or 'hands-on' experience with actual case work in TV-TS problems, and usually provide futile, banal efforts.

The one main key, if there is one, is that each of us needs to sit down and perform a little self-psychoanalysis. How do we really feel about ourselves? Our sexuality? Is it a sexually gratifying experience to us, or is it an emotional outlet? For most cross-dressers it is an avenue for their libido, while a few others use it to escape daily anxieties - to act out a different role to a different drummer. For most transsexuals there is a true, real need and desire to breathe life into that separate person and personality within them.

Many cross-dressers will create another personality to help complete their made-to-order image a la femme. We all create different images, and wear separate hats for our different roles for the different acts or roles we play to react to different situations. Creating a different image is a relatively easy thing to do. But many, if not most transsexuals have a separate personality within them that controls their actions. That inner "she" or "he" is there constantly, not just when it is convenient. I speak about this with some bias, for, although I am many things, I am above all else, a transsexual.

I know who I am - exactly. I know what I want, where I want to go, and how I want to get there. It will not be long before my name will be inscribed into the ranks of the women's kingdom permanently. We all need to know ourselves this well to give our lives some meaning and direction. For the world to understand us we need to understand ourselves first.

When the public first started to accept the liberated gay community is when gays started to feel good about themselves. They felt confident about their well-being which put other people a little more at ease. This is the way we have to become. Yes, get out of the proverbial closet, get out into society regardless of whether your are a cross-dresser or TS. Do not be ashamed about what you do or what your are. Join clubs and organizations as the person you want to be and you will reap the rewards of truly living "life". We are living in this nation and society. Let's get out and become an active part of it.

- END -

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('Communication' is a two-part series that pertain to public visibility of ourselves, and the TV-TS Community.)

COMMUNICATION - PART I
Or,
How To Make The World Hear Your Song

by
Cheryl Anne Costa (NY-0669)

The twelve disciples of Jesus were by today's standards among the best Public Relations men in the business. They went out and told a story and sold a concept that was very very alien in its day. They didn't have telephone, television, twix, communications satellites, or access to world-wide printed media network. They did have two things going for them however. They had a very special gift for frankness, sincerity, and a heart-felt belief in what they were selling, not to mention a great product.

The true message that most of us would like to get out to the world about our very special community is by most people's standards a bit alien to say the least. Needless to say as a concept becomes more understandable the more it is tolerated, not necessarily accepted, but tolerated. Madison Avenue advertising people have been in this business quite some time learning to change attitudes and social practice in order to sell their client's product or service. Quite often the product or service is presented in fashionable light. a good example is CB radios. A couple of years back almost nobody had ever heard of a CB radio. There there was a CB trucker's song and First Lady Ford became First Mama. for a time like all fads everybody had to have a CB radio, everybody had CB fever. The manufacturing marketing, and sales

people had a field day selling every type of CB radio gizmo to the general public. Everybody made out, especially the car thieves, but I guess that's the beauty of the free enterprise system. Alas as in all fad projects the wind changes and the bottom falls out of the market. CB radios went the way of vegomatics and hula hoops, appearing at garage sales and collecting dust in somebody's warehouse until some bright marketing wizard can add some new twist in a couple of years. By the way it is my opinion that frizbees are no longer

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a fad but have become a national standard.

You are by now wondering what this has to do with the price of tea in China and the TV-TS Community. It has a great deal to do if you're responsible for public relations for a club or a network of clubs. Since 1966 the number of articles that have been written about the TV-TS Community in general total about 35. The articles I'm referring to are national magazine types, listed in the Guide to National Periodicals. The general reference listings have consistently been under (change of sex, generative organs removal, transsexualism, transvestism). Of that 35, about 95% have been written on Transsexual aspects. The total number of articles written about TVs is about three. Two of these were written in a nationally listed but very regional magazines, the types of articles that are next to impossible to get. One was written about two years ago in 'People' magazine, but that one was stolen from both libraries I checked.

This brings up another point. It's nice to know just how big your potential target market is, judging from the number of stolen books on the subject I figure it's very popular. I decided to do a marketing study. In this case I got my data by two methods. The first method was reading professionally written text books (which told me that there are a lot of doctors out there who don't have the foggiest idea who or what we are). The second was a little more like a detective operation. It involved informally surveying evidence left by people expressing a need for knowledge on the subject matter. What I did was go to the regional libraries and examine all books on transsexualism that were stocked (there was only one book on TVs between four libraries, and it was locked up). I copied the check-out cards which have the library card's credit card imprint on them, which is more or less a signature of the person who checked out the book. To the credit of the library staffs, it was impossible for me to obtain the names of the card holders. The libraries are very punchy about user security (which should set a lot of you at ease...it did me). Our regional libraries all use the same kind of card which means if you have one it's good at any of the other libraries. I made a comparison list of the card numbers to see how many people were checking out books about TS subject matter. After making sure that I didn't count any card number twice I totaled up the list. Guess What ! 178 persons checked out these 14 books in a 5 year period. I asked the 30 active members of the Butterfly Group if they had used any of the books locally. Only two had. This tells me some interesting things about the closet types. We've got about 30 active members in Butterfly, and 176 potential types, not to mention about another 65-70 mailing list types that are so far, still in the closet to everyone but themselves. A total of 270 persons that might be potential members if we can just get to them, or at least set them at ease. Most likely the majority of them think they're the only ones in town that feel the way they do. Sound familiar?

The more I talk to cross-dressers, the more I have found that if their wives are on board with them the better it is. spouse and possibly family support are critical to a cross-dresser's well being and coming out. The bottom line is that if we are ever going to get a lot more people out of that closet we're going to have to make it tolerable, available, and fashionable. <u>What is Tolerable</u>? Tolerable is a general sense of letting a person do their own thing without raining on their parade. If we're not hurting anybody, why bug us? It's a sense of live and let live. Remember there are a lot of people out there that already feel this way. They want to be tolerable and accepting, because they wish to be. It is up to us to show them the way, by our example. We're just plain folks just like they are. Tolerable keeps us from being messed with at work or socially, just because of what we are!

<u>What is Available</u>? Available is having information accessible without moral censorship. Until I tripped across ''Tapestry' last year I had no idea how many support groups there were in this world. The publishers of various sexual publications that profess interest and concern for the TV-TS

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Community are in my opinion concerned only with the almighty dollar. If we really had free access to information about ourselves we wouldn't have to be embarrassed to ask a librarian for assistance. I have endeavored to get 'Tapestry' carried at the local libraries. Our club offered a gift subscription, an offer that was met with resistance - but I am not finished in that area. Available means information any time any where just by asking!

What is Fashionable? Fashionable is getting the main line population to think it's missing out on something great if it doesn't have it - a sense of specialness. Remember long hair on males in the mid to late sixties? At first there was a serious reaction, then it was the norm, then just another style expression. Today almost anything goes in male hair styles, as long as it's clearly not feminine in nature. Remember what is male or female in attire or grooming is really a judgment call. (YE OLDE 'DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SEX AND GENDER' CONCEPT) Fashionable is having your wife be tolerant enough to feel both Cursed and Blessed over your special tastes to show you off to the neighbors.

WE HAVE TO BECOME TOLERABLE, AVAILABLE, AND FASHIONABLE!!!

** For those of you that haven't heard, there are efforts underway to organize a national/international convention for 1987. A lot of Public Relations type efforts will go in to an operation like a convention. this is where we invite Medical/Social counselling professionals to learn more. This is where television news magazines, the printed magazines and the marketing media will get a true honest picture of who and what we are and are not. A convention is not a party but an honest effort to put our best foot forward and impress the HELL out of the establishment. Let's show them that there's a world beyond TOOTSIE!!!

COMMUNICATION - PART II

In Part I, I said that we as the TV-TS Community have to become tolerable, available, and fashionable. The way to do this is for the Tiffany Club, Tri-Ess and GGA to set aside 15 million dollars in an advertising budget to go on a national advertising campaign. Only the best advertising firm on Madison Ave. should be approached. Remember we're not selling cars here we're selling people so we can't's trust anyone but the very best in the business. By now a lot of you want a pound of what I've been smoking, right? First thing I should tell you is that I don't smoke (anything) and only drink with dinner.

It's very obvious that these forementioned groups are not equipped to fund such a project, but needless to say the project needs to be undertaken. If each regional group were to take the responsibility for carrying the PR torch on they're home turf, a project of proportional value could be mounted for next to nothing.

Let me tell you how I mounted such a Public Relations campaign for the upstate New York area. I share this with you so you can see how easy it can be. Remember it can be a very thankless job and can be, as a friend put it, "A Mistress".

If we're ever going to be somewhat tolerated in this country people are going to have to be exposed to what we are and what we are not. I know the power of good Public Relations. In a previous issue of Tapestry I wrote Merissa and told of all the support stores that the Butterfly Group has at its disposal. The reason I got so many support stores together for only two people (original founders) was because we wanted something to attract new members. Most clubs of any sort usually have people first and services second. I took the opposite approach, let's have a club that has everything. This might help us encourage novices out of the closet. IT DID! In

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addition it gave me a handle on how people react to OUR KIND in the community. It was very strange. in the triple cities area one village was very conservative, and one was rather mixed. In the other, the merchants did anything for a dollar. Getting these SELECT stores as we call them was an important aid in measuring community tolerance to the crossdressers of any sort. In addition, two stores already had TVs or TSs coming to them. This gave us contact to at least two more people. Contacting the local GAY club helped a lot. They knew several people that had called their hot line looking for some kind of support. I started doing all this in the early Spring. By early Fall we had an informal group of 5 persons.

At this point I began making phone contact with the local press and media. First I talked to the local press, features department.

The features department are the people who write the human interest articles. In some papers I would recommend the Science/Education editor. In smaller papers one or two people carry the whole load. Put together a package of the best Tapestry, GGA, V. Prince, etc. articles you can find. Use the type that address the general information issues. Spouse and family type information is very important. Read and understand this material very well put it together in a nice term paper style folder. Be sure to have a nicely typed general information sheet about your group.

After your press kit is together, make your phone calls to the press people. First call the paper you view as having the best coverage and the most respect in the community. Ask the receptionist if the paper has a science and education editor. If yes, find out his/her name and get transferred. If not get transferred to the features department. With a small town paper you might wish to contact the managing editor first. After locating the right person you must be careful to be polite and informative. Basically don't risk your personal security any more than you have to. I simply tell them that I represent a group of persons in the community that are transgendered, that is, transsexuals, and heterosexual cross-dressers. At this point you got them and you have to talk fast and listen closely to their vocal tone. Explain that you or members of your group would be willing to make yourselves available for a carefully handled press interview.

They may at this point say that why should they be interested at all, or they are interested. If yes, explain the terms of the article: no pictures unless someone in your group is really presentable, modified names are preferred to protect the interviewee, and a mutually agreed upon location for the interview.

In my first article I invited the female reporter to my home while I was fully dressed. The second interview we did was an out of town paper. The reporter met me at a donut shop a block or two from the club president's trailer, and I met her in male attire. This interview was very interesting. We sat around the kitchen table talking, just her and me and the club president (post-op TS). I put on my makeup while we talked. This was a first for me since I prefer privacy or only the presence of another TV to talk with. The reporter was planning on

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just staying and talking to the two of us for about an hour. She stayed about 8 hours. "You ladies are a swell bunch" was her departing statement. She wrote close to a 3/4 page article about us. Although she did lean it toward the TSs a bit much. We did clearly tell her that TVs were more the rule. Remember, take the approach that this article is not a "Gee wiz, guys wear skirts" type of thing. We're just plain folks with a different outlook on things, that's all. Last but not least, we want the real story told.

The third article was a bit more difficult to arrange. The paper was 60 miles up the expressway from us. The science editor was very interested after I have him the short course in Transgender 101 over the phone. I sent him the press kit. A week later I got a very detailed letter back asking lots of questions. He did something that the other two reporters didn't do...he did his homework. He obviously read the kit and some library books on the subject. I gave him very good, at least the best that I could come up with, answers. A couple of weeks later I got another letter very much like the first, but different and more detailed questions. I was beginning to think he was a closet case himself. After two or three months of phone calls and letters I drove up to see him. I had him arrange a meeting place at the public library in a private conference room which he did. Since the town was my home town and since I was staying at my mother-in-law's house, I had to go in male attire. I took my portrait pictures and some back issues of 'Tapestry'. We met in the library and talked for three and a half hours. He was really intrigued. (He's a three pack a day smoker, and he didn't light up once.) His article has yet to be published, but I do know that he is leaning this article toward the cross-dresser and his wife. he feels, as well as I, that a lot more CDs might come out if their wives blessed it and encouraged it. THAT THEY WOULD!

Remember, if you go to the press, you MUST remain in control. Play down the kinky stuff, and play up the wholesome, down home, just plain folks aspect, - the "ain't no big deal" approach. I found myself hammering on the point that TSs and drag entertainers are the visible minority. To cap it all off I gave them a xerox copy of a Tri-Ess brochure. That's as wholesome as you get.

- END -

POETRY

DOUBLE TROUBLE
-- Norma Lee

I lead a do ible life
With a double identity
Some people think I am
Escaping from reality.

Along life's crooked path
I cannot find my way
As I have a strong desire
To be a woman someday.

Now I quite often will
Dress in womens' clothes
And I am to the point
Of caring less who knows.

Friends have even seen
Me in a skirt and blouse
And they are not offended
When they're at my house.

But my family can't accept
My identity that's double
Where they are concerned
It really creates trouble.

I am not understood
By most of my family
In fact most of the time
They are condemning of me.

But without any doubt
My dressing will continue
As it is one thing now
That I really like to do.

So if along the way
It has brought me trouble
I'm content living with
An identity that's double.

Fantasia Fair '85

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(Edited from 'The Transvestian', Vol.4 No. 9, $2.00 per copy, Tania volen Inc., 200 Main St., Tennent, NJ 07763-0200)

FANTASIA FAIR '85
by
Denise Mason

Most unplanned was my visit to Provincetown for the 1985 version of Fantasia Fair, but most enjoyable were the four days I spent there.

The Fair started on October 18th and culminated on the 27th, and on a whim I asked my wife if she wanted to go to Fantasia for the Thursday through Saturday the last weekend of the event. She answered immediately, "Sure, why not?" We packed the car with five wigs and tons of clothing (guess who took the most), and the next day we were on Cape Cod.

The beautiful fall colors plus seasonal temperatures between 60-70 during the day were ideal for a TV dressed in flowing wig, sweater, blue jeans and boots. The town was crowded, the boutiques and restaurants 80 percent open and the ambiance of P-town as typical as its reputation.

On Thursday night at the Pilgrim House's Madeira Room, the Fain Fair Follies took place amid a packed house of participants, supporters, wives, girlfriends, and townsfolk as well. The classy Betty Ann Lind, MC for the evening (I just loved Betty's long hair piled into such a stylish do), introduced all the girls in the 30-plus wonderful acts.

The quality of the acts from lip synching, to the fully choreographed dance by Constance, to the very

(photo credit: Mariette Pathy Allen)

Ariadne Kane, Director,
Fantasia Fair, 1985

enjoyable Andrews Sisters (Winnie, Laura, Cindy), and beautiful guitar playing and singing by Jennifer and Pam, were only surpassed by the hilarious Naomi and Jennie who did very professional comedy routines.

Michael, a local performer, entertained us with an exceptional impersonation of Liza Minelli. (Liza, watch out!)

The finale of cast and audience singing "God Bless America" with Naomi in her red, white and blue sailor dress while waving the American flag... did make us all feel proud of who we were, despite what others may think.

A very lovely buffet in the cocktail Bar and some very good

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conversation left this girl and her best girlfriend with a great time and ready to retreat back to the motel at 2 a.m.

The next day, Friday, again saw the Pilgrim House Madeira Room host the Miss Provincetown Contest and Fantasy Ball. Dressed in my leopardskin full-length gown, slit up the side to you-know-where, black nylons and heels, and my huge, wild blond wig, I did have the feeling of the wild leopard within, which was my theme in the contest. It was rather chilly this evening and perfect weather for my white fur coat.

Walking from the car to th the ball we bumped into Virginia Prince who was gaily attired in a colorful and wispy Indian sari. It was the first time I met Virginia and I must say a pleasure.

The evening started with Maureen, the hostess and MC for the evening, introducing Constance, a beautiful and talented dancer who performed and sang for us. God gave three people's talents to this girl, and she had the movements of the most professional dancer on Broadway. Next was the lovely black impersonator, Sahdji, who came out as Dionne Warwick and not only mimicked her every move, but looked like her in every way. After a quick change Sahdji again performed and danced to the delight and appreciation of the entire crowd. a delightful person, with a tender philosophy of love and understanding she shared with us before her parting.

A bit of dancing and the contests started. about 30 participants from Playboy Bunny to Happy Hooker, from a P-town Tourist to a GG impersonating a TV, joined in the fun.

Ariadne Kane in an Indian sari, was most ebullient these days, and won second place in the Ms Fantasy Contest. Winner of the event was Pam, a very beautiful girl, wore a very sexy white gown, platinum wig, white and black feathered and sequined mask, hairpiece and boa, won first place as Ms Fantasy and the "Lady In White".

Makeup consultant, Muriel Olive, won in the Real Girl category as a very sexy harem girl, and Barbie, real GG and super person (also the town's hairdresser) won as charlie Chaplin, mustache, umbrella and derby hat as Mr. Fantasy. A great job.

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Sahdji & Denise Mason

Betty Ann Lind, Fan/Fair Follies
Mistress of Ceremonies

Lots of dancing followed and again a retreat to the Pilgrim House cocktail bar, or a trip to the A-House or some other disco. 2 a.m. and again a trip back to the motel for the end of another great night.

On Saturday, the evening of the Fantasia Banquet, I didn't attend, so I can't report on it. But I can say those who worked hard to put on a super week deservedly received their true thanks.

People like Betty ann, Ariadne, Maureen, Eve, Naomi, Renee, Maxine, Charlene, Pam, Constance, and Sahdji, plus many others, made this a super weekend for me.

It was nice seeing old friends like Paula, Joanne, June and Winnie, some of the participants of the Pocono weekend. But it was best seeing the smiles and happiness of all the girls, their wives, girlfriends and lovers. The feeling of friendship and companionship was prevalent during these brief three days for me, but I am sure, was continuous during the entire 9 days in this quaint New England fishing village.

The understanding of the townsfolk, the relaxation of being yourself in public surroundings, and the feeling of being loved was a standard part of Fantasia Fair. Being there was special.

- END -

(photo credit: Mariette Pathy Allen)

Maureen, Eve, Winnie behind the scenes at the Follies

(photo credit: Mariette Pathy Allen)

Pam behind the scenes at the Follies

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(Edited from 'the Provincetown Advocate', 10/24/85)

FANTASIA FAIR IN ITS 11th YEAR

by

Leah Rush

About 70 people, most of them transvestites, met Monday night at the Provincetown Universalist Meeting House for a dinner and panel discussion, the opening event of the nine-day Fantasia Fair festival, its eleventh year in Provincetown.

Among the crowd were lawyers, carpenters and restauranteurs with Texas drawls and resonant New Jersey voices, who from last Friday until this Sunday have cast off men's clothing to wear wigs, skirts, dresses, evening gowns, high heels and makeup, not to mention the unmentionables.

the Fair includes a fashion show, kite flying, seminars, a pajama party, a fantasy ball and, of course, a whale watch.

Following the pot-luck dinner at the church, six of "the girls," as they called themselves, presented brief autobiographies to the audience, about 30 men in men's clothing and women in women's clothing.

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"Eve," who was sporting an elegant yellow dress and matching earrings, said he is a former World cup soccer champion and the son of a Prussian general. He recounted a time during World War II when he was 12, fleeing with his family through the snow from grenades, having time only to gather together the most essential items - a skirt and a blouse.

He and his wife divorced after 25 years of marriage when he told her why so many of her dresses had split zippers.

"Eve," who spends three days a week as Eve and four of his male persona, is now happy. He has a girl friend and they "love one another regardless of what clothes they are wearing."

"Jane," from New Jersey, said he is an electrical engineer. "We go AC or DC," he said. Jane is a trim and stylish dresser with no five o'clock shadow to give away his secret. On his wrist dangles a bracelet with six or seven academic pendants, showing he was Phi Beta Kappa and a graduate student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"We tend to be achievers," said Jane, who is an elder in his church and was once a Sunday school teacher. "I'm telling you, a stranger, what I wouldn't tell my minister," he said.

(photo credit: Mariette Pathy Allen)

Follies finale

(photo credit: Mariette Pathy Allen)

Jennifer on stage

Like Eve, Jane told his wife after 25 years of marriage that he was a cross-dresser. He was afraid that if he died, she would find his garments. There were "tears and heartaches" he said, and although his wife is unhappy with the situation, they are still married.

Jane said his wife jangles the keys and makes a lot of noise if she comes home earlier than expected in order to avoid meeting a perfumed and bejeweled spouse at the door.

"I'm a shoe person," he said. "I might as well admit it."

Most of the transvestites present at the dinner were middle aged or older. Although most remembered trying on women's clothing when they were in elementary school, it has taken many of them years to feel free enough to attend an event of this kind, said "Nikki," a carpenter from Maine.

It's also an expensive vacation, said "Ramona," who drove for three days from Minnesota to come here.

The Fair is sponsored by the Human Outreach and Achievement Institute, a Boston-based organization that provides information and support to cross-

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dressers, transsexuals, androgynes and helping professionals.

Ariadne Kane, director of the Institute, was present, along with Virginia Prince, who founded the first transvestite organization, Full Personality Expression, in 1962. It is now called the Society for the Second Self.

Prince, introduced as "the grand dame" of transvestites, founded the first transvestite magazine in 1960 and was the first person to do extensive research on crossdressers. He discovered that 75 percent of transvestites are married and have children, and that while close to 35 percent have visited a psychiatrist at least once, only four percent found psychiatric help helpful.

Prince's group used to accept only heterosexual members, said Samantha, who was in one of the original chapters of the group in Houston, TX. They now realize they "can have all kinds" he said.

"Naomi," who said he is a Chicago lawyer and president of the condominium he lives in, said that while he has tried to gain recognition for the conventionality of all other aspects of his life, he feels a bond with gay people from suffering the same rejection from the general public.

"Nobody really knows why we crossdress," he said. It would amuse him "if my friends could see me now," he said, as he discretely removed his slip, which had been showing all evening.

Naomi is holding a seminar on Friday on legal problems associated with crossdressing, from signing a credit card with a woman's name to extortion. He said he knows of no state or federal laws against crossdressing, but that it is illegal in some localities. He cited problems with employment and protecting privacy from photographers as other legal issues for transvestites.

following the panel discussion Mariette Allen of New York, who has been the official photographer for the Fantasia Fair for five years, showed a slide show. She presented photographs of Mardi Gras drag queens and grandfathers gurgling at babies and looking very grandmotherly.

The belles of the ball were outspoken and cordial in recounting their experiences to the audience, but who the most gracious one is will not be determined until today when the ballots for Ms congeniality of the 1985 Fantasia Fair are counted.

(photo credit: Mariette Pathy Allen)

Fashion Show

- END -

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(Edited from 'The Cape Cod Times', Monday, 10/28/85)

CROSSDRESSERS GATHER FOR
NINE-DAY FAIR
by
Marnie Samuelson

Jane is an electrical engineer. Jenny, a publisher. Eve, a successful self-employed manufacturer's representative selling basic industrial products to major mid-Western corporations.

what do these women have in common?

they are men.

they are high-powered achievers who share a passion - some might say compulsion - for sometimes dressing and living as women.

They call themselves "crossdressers," a term which embraces anyone

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wearing clothing of an opposite gender. It is a label preferable to "transvestite," they and other say, because it describes behavior, without ascribing motivations or imposing values.

This week in Provincetown about 75 crossdressers gathered from around the country to take part in Fantasia Fair. Tucking their male identities neatly in suitcases, they donned heels and designer dresses , casual and elegant attire, to take part in the annual nine-day event, designed to affirm their desire to cross gender barriers.

In fashion workshops, they practiced sitting, walking and moving as women. At the Follies Thursday night before an appreciative, standing-room-only audience, some of them lived out fantasies of being Liza Minelli, Cher and Madonna.

In counseling sessions, personal growth workshops, panel discussions and informal conversations, they explored some of the tough issues related to sex and gender roles. What does it mean to dress in women,s clothing? what does it mean to be born a man and, in this culture, embrace feminine feelings?

At an impromptu panel last week, following the Fair's annual Town and gown supper, several crossdressers shared their stories.

Eve, dressed in an elegant low-waisted, yellow wool dress, spoke of his childhood as the son of a German general. As World War II was coming

(photo credit: Mariette Pathy Allen)

Videotape replay of the highlights of Paula's comportment class. (Maybe somebody didn't do it just right.)

to a close, the family was preparing to escape from invading troops, and the children were told to pack their knapsacks with only essential possessions. In Eve's sack? Two treasured items: a blouse and a skirt.

Jenny approaching 6-foot-5 in heels and at fantasia Fair for the first time this year, was once an All American basketball player and a U.S. Navy veteran. he has been happily married for 30 years. "My wife and family don't know about this," he said. "It's very hard for me not t5o tell, but it would only hurt them." Jane, dressed in a tailored blue-knit suit and red pumps, has also struggled with secrets. He is an electrical engineer from New Jersey. He said it was 25 years into their marriage before he told his wife, Phyllis, about his obsession.

For Phyllis, who was listening in the audience, Fantasia Fair is still a difficult time. but the struggle is worth it, she said later. "Jane is my best friend."

In a second marriage, Eve said, he has found "total happiness," living half the week as a woman, the rest of the time as Ed.

He told of growing up to be a champion world cup soccer player, of an unhappy 25-year first marriage, and then of meeting, falling in love with

(photo credit: Mariette Pathy Allen)

Dining out

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and marrying carole, a professional model.

They are husband and wife and best girlfriends, both partners said later. To the outside world - neighbors, friends, club members, and business colleagues - they are Ed and Carole, a traditional husband and wife couple. But at home, three days a week, within the intimacy of their marriage, that changes. Ed's male role disappears, and they live together as Carole and Eve, confidantes, who love to shop, dine and spend time together.

sometimes, Eve thinks he would like to spend more time as a woman. "I'd love to go to club functions as Eve," he said later. "But it would be a disaster. Let's face it. Society is not ready." And, living full time as a woman, he said, would jeopardize a career that has taken 30 years to establish.

But it is personal considerations that are most important. Said Carole, "I love having Eve around. There hasn't been a time when I haven't wanted her here. But I couldn't give up Ed. I don't know how I could do that."

According to experts, the whys of crossdressing remain a mystery, and many crossdressers have come to accept that they may never find an answer to their apparent compulsion to cross gender lines to dress and live as women.

There is little hard research on the genesis of crossdressing, said therapist and organizational development consultant Niela Miller, here this week to lead workshops for crossdressers and their spouses.

"The only thing we can conjecture," she said, is that crossdressing arises when a number of factors - genetic tendencies, environmental and cultural conditions - come together.

Most crossdressers begin donning female attire early, and they are likely in a male-dominated society to experience guilt and uneasiness about their feminine feelings. as they reach adulthood a common pattern is to become overachievers, said Ms Miller and other experts.

Trying to prove their masculinity, "They don't just become ordinary," she said. "They become star athletes, top-ranking officers in the military, and top executives."

Dressing in women's clothing becomes an escape valve, a release from what several crossdressers this week described as a feeling of deep anxiety. for some it is enough to dress only occasionally. For others, like "Virginia," a 73 year old author and consultant, dressing and living as a woman has become a total commitment.

Seventeen years ago, he left behind his male identity, as charles, to dress and live as a woman. Still others may find that even crossing the gender boundary is not enough and may opt for transsexual surgery.

Ms Miller said her role is to help crossdressers be aware of who they are, to understand their choices, and to make those choices based on good, solid reasons.

Ariadne Kane, the director of Outreach Institute, sponsor of the Fair, stressed the themes of self-acceptance and fulfillment. Ms Kane, the Fair's organizer, embraces both a male and a female identity, sometimes dressing as a woman, other times adopting a "soft" male appearance. "It's time," she told crossdressers at a luncheon seminar this week, "to stop feeling guilty."

At the follies Thursday night, it was Eve, dressed in a silver-and blue sequined gown, who drove the message home. Stepping into the audience for his final number, his graceful movement and striking presence belied his stature, as he belted out, "I am what I am."

- END -

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Wives of Crossdressers, Isolated and Misunderstood

by Roger E. Peo Ph.D.

"When I found out my husband liked to wear women's clothes, I went to a therapist for help. The therapist began counseling both of us but soon switched his attention to my husband, leaving me with no support."

"My husband likes to wear women's clothes. I feel like a lesbian."

"I was curious and excited because it was something new."

"When I found out, I was happy, because I was looking for a transvestite for a date."

These, and many other, comments came from women in my recently completed study of 55 women whose husband or partner sometimes wear women's clothing. Specifically excluded from this study were women who were in a relationship with a transsexual mate.

About 75% of the women were married to their partner with most of the relationships reported as monogamous. These couples appeared to be in typical middle-class lifestyles which seemed outwardly indistinguishable from other middle-class couples. The women were predominantly in their late 30's or early 40's. The couples had been in a relationship for an average of 12 years at the time of the study. In many of the couples, the woman had somewhat less education, a less prestigious occupation and was slightly younger than her partner. If they attended religious services, they usually went with about the sam,e frequency. Only 25% of the respondents attended services weekly. The rest went monthly or less frequently. About half of my sample was Protestant while the remaining half was about equally divided between Catholic and "Other" with less than 10% Jewish. The women in my study described themselves as heterosexual, with only a minority ever mentioning any homosexual experiences. The woman usually described her sex drive as somewhat less than her partner's sex drive. Her male partner was usually described as heterosexual, a college graduate and often held a responsible professional position. The women in my study should not be considered typical of women who relate to crossdressers because most of them had some connection with an organization that supported crossdressing males. Lastly, these women were generally not in therapy situations.

A woman who is in an intimate relationship with a man who likes to wear women's clothing can feel isolated. The social stigma generally attached to such behavior can make her afraid to confide in anyone for fear of ridicule and/or social ostracism. If nothing else, there is always the potential that her partner's behavior may be inadvertently discovered, which could cause social problems and perhaps the loss of his job. Many therapists and counselors do not know much about crossdressing or any of the other transgender behaviors such as transsexualism. as a result, if a woman does go to a therapist, she may not get accurate information or adequate support. She may also begin to doubt her own sexuality. Here she is, relating to a male who likes to wear women's clothing and who may ask to be treated as a "woman". What does that make her? A lesbian? She may think that her partner wants sex reassignment surgery and will become a full-time woman. She may be economically and/or

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socially dependent on this male. What will become of her? What about the children? These and many other questions go through her mind.

How did the women in my study handle these concerns? First, I didn't get any information about women who learned about their partner's crossdressing and subsequently left the relationship. All the women in this study were in a current relationship with a crossdressing male for at least six months and for as long as 38 years. Most had known about their partner's needs for five years or longer. About half of these women found out within the first year of their relationship. Their reactions on finding out about their partner's crossdressing ranged from curiosity to fear to anger. Some women who found out before marriage often thought marriage would "cure" the behavior. The women who found out early in the relationship, especially before marriage, where often more accepting or tolerant (if they chose to stay in the relationship) than those who found out later. In the majority of the relationships in this study, the man told the woman about his need. Only a very few women found out from other sources or discovered it on their own.

When I asked the women how they felt upon first learning about their partner's crossdressing the responses were generally more negative than positive. Most chose such words as "afraid", "angry", "hurt" and "threatened" as well as expressing fears about homosexuality - both theirs and their partner's. Many women were also curious and displayed a supportive attitude. there were also a substantial number of women who were confused about the whole issue. With time many of these women appeared to have adapted to the situation so that, at the time of the study, many reported being supportive while reporting less anger and confusion. It appeared that the more sensitive the male was to his partner's and situation the earlier in the relationship he told her, the more likely it was that she would be tolerant of his behavior - assuming she stayed at all. When the women were asked if they had ever thought about leaving the relationship because of their partner's crossdressing, 33 had never considered it, whereas 17 had considered leaving at some time and 5 were uncertain whether or not to leave.

Why did these women stay in the relationship? There seemed to be two major reasons. Primarily, they said they loved their partners. This love enabled them to be supportive of his needs even though it was often painful. Most of the women would rather that their partner did not crossdress, but came to understand that the crossdressing was an unchangeable part of his personality. Second, there were social and economic conditions that tended to keep some women in the relationship. Some of the women in my study appeared to have an economic and social dependence on their partner. Also, divorce is neither simple nor inexpensive and what could be given as the reason, especially if the marriage appears outwardly sound?

Sexually, problems were reported. The male often desired or required the wearing of some article(s) of women's clothing for satisfactory sexual arousal, which turned off some of the women. Also, there was the problem of competition. There were women who reported that they felt as if they were competing the the "woman" their partner became, both in wardrobe and, perhaps, in looks. One woman told me, "Since he like to wear women's clothing, I feel as if I have nothing that is uniquely mine." a few women in my study refused to relate to their partner when he was crossdressed. They didn't like the feeling of having another "woman" as a sexual partner. This feeling sometimes extended to smells - perfume and makeup - as well as removal of body hair or electrolysis for beard removal. Conversely, some women liked and encouraged their partner's crossdressing because it heightened his sexual arousal and this, in turn, appeared to increase their arousal.

Interestingly, just over half of the women in my study said that their partner's crossdressing did not influence their wardrobe and another quarter said that their partner's crossdressing had a positive influence. When there was a positive influence the women reported that she became more aware of her own dress and began to

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dress better. She also said that she had more clothes to borrow - from her partner. Only 10% of the women described a negative influence on their wardrobe and this influence was of a competitive nature - she would no longer wear certain articles of clothing or felt that her partner looked better in women's clothing than she did. Some of the women coordinated their outfit to their crossdressed partner, especially if they were going out together. As a side issue, the male was often very aware and envious of his partner's freedom to wear women's clothing, a feeling that the women were aware of and sometimes uncomfortable with.

A woman who relates to a male crossdresser may have difficulty in finding support for her feelings. Her partner can be very egocentric and insensitive to her needs as can be the case with compulsive behaviors. As noted above, therapists may not be much help and therapy can be expensive. While some women in my study had close friends or relatives who were supportive, most women received the best support from wives of other crossdressers. The difficulty was in finding such women. Most women in my study found them through organizations of crossdressers who were sensitive to the plight of such women and provided situations where wives/partners could meet. However, the woman had to be aware of such groups which was not often true when she first learned of her partner's crossdressing. So, for a time after the initial discovery she could be isolated and afraid. Her partner sometimes tried to help by providing her with information. some of this information was more harmful than useful because it was written with the underlying slant of getting her to accept the crossdressing rather than dealing with her feelings. Also, if she read transvestite literature, the letters and fantasies in them sometimes raised her concern that her partner <u>really</u> wanted to live full-time as a woman. Some of the women in my study reported engaging in an affair external to their primary relationship in order to reassure themselves of their desirability and to avoid dealing with the crossdressing problems.

Conversely, some women reported enjoying their partner's crossdressing. In addition to providing them with a larger wardrobe (if they were about the same size) the crossdressed male may be less "macho" and was more interested in women's clothing which sometimes gave them a common subject to talk about. Some women also noted that by facing and working out their mutual feelings and needs around the crossdressing issues, communication improved and the relationship became stronger.

When the women described their partner, the result is a typical male - with the exception of the crossdressing. One difference seemed to be in awareness of feelings - his own and his partner's - for many women reported that compared to other men, her partner was more aware of both his and her feelings. The male's crossdressing dominated most relationships, at least part of the time. This did not mean that the male actually crossdressed but that he could be thinking about it or become depressed because circumstances did not let him dress as often as he would like. He was also described as being very aware of women, especially what they were wearing.

The men in my study crossdressed quite frequently. One-third crossdressed daily and another 20% crossdressed at least once a week or more often. Many of the men were described as becoming sexually excited when crossdressed. When he crossdressed for sexual arousal he might only wear a few articles of women's clothing - the most popular being a bra and/or panties. Many males in this study got completely crossdressed as a woman and went out in public. Nearly half of the males can pass in public as a woman (according to their partners). About 20% got out one or more times a month to such places as transvestite parties, gay bars, shopping, restaurants and movies.

The women had concerns related to discovery or potential discovery. Who knows and who should be told were recurring themes. Selected friends and some immediate family members were the ones who most often knew about the male's crossdressing. dIn only 3 couples did the children know about the male's crossdressing. When it came to determining who should be told, nearly

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half of the women felt that no one should be told, while another 25% felt that there could be appropriate individuals who should be told, such as some family members and children as well as selected friends. When the woman did discuss her partner's crossdressing with someone it was usually with other family members or close friends and in over half the cases the person confided in was supportive. It appeared that the most meaningful support came from the wives of other crossdressers - when they could be found. Interestingly, over 60% of the women did not report being afraid that their partner's crossdressing would become public or discovered by close family members. Perhaps this finding was due to the fact that the woman often went out with her crossdressed partner or that he exercised discretion over where and when he went out crossdressed.

When their partner was crossdressed there were impacts on the relationship between the two people in addition to sexual activities. Only 15 women reported that their interactions did not change. There were another 13 women who were turned off by this behavior and 11 who said they related to their partner as a girl-friend. 7 couples switched roles and in 9 instances the woman reported that they became closer. In 33 couples the male always initiated any crossdressing situations, and in only 19 cases was it suggested by either partner. Only 2 couples reported that the male never crossdressed in their presence. For some the crossdressing was for sexual relations. In these cases the male sometimes crossdressed before or during sexual relations, but only 7 always crossdressed and 12 never did. In 44% of the cases, the male's crossdressing needs were reported as at least sometimes dominating the relationship, with a nearly equal 45% reporting that it never dominated the relationship.

Thus, these women often had to cope with their partner's crossdressing by themselves. There was (and still is) little information to help them understand their situation. In addition, their partner was often too close to the situation to provide objective information and sometimes provoked her anger by stating he knew what it was like to be a woman in this society because he crossdressed. Therapists were often of little help because they had too little useful information or experience. When the woman was able to make contact with other wives she reportedly received the most support outside of close family or friends. The woman often felt that her tolerance or acceptance of her partner's crossdressing was a one-way street because her partner was often not equally sensitive to her needs. Also, her tolerance was sometimes mistaken for enjoyment of the crossdressing, when, in reality, it was simply that she had little choice if she stayed in the relationship and wanted it to be relatively peaceful.

The picture seems bleak, and to some extent it is, but there is hope. There are several avenues that can lead to a better relationship. Top of the list is to improve communication between the two people, which can be facilitated by an understanding counselor or therapist. The goal is not to eliminate the male's behavior but to find ways within the specific relationship for the male to crossdress while respecting and supporting the woman's needs.

- END -

(** Any comments or questions may be addressed to: Roger E. Peo, PhD, c/o Androgyny Unlimited, Box 4887, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602 914-462-7455)

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(Edited from the TV Entertainers Newsletter, TV Entertainers, 226 Jefferson St., Albany, NY 12210)

TIFFANY WIVES SUPPORT GROUP PROVINCETOWN OUTING

by

Karyn and Renee C. (NY-0644)

Hi again TV Entertainers members and friends. I'm writing to tell you about our trip to Tiffany's Wives Support Group Outing in Provincetown MA. Renee had been in the closet for two months before we finally got away for the Weekend, and what a weekend!

I was up at 5 a.m. Friday busying myself with makeup and outfits that would fit the occasion. I settled on a large size blouse and tank top of Karyn's for underneath, and a pair of white low cut sneakers, and by 8 a.m. Karyn and I finally were off for P-town.

Once on the road my stomach was attacked by an angry swarm of butterflies. What if I didn't pass? Karyn kept trying to tell me I looked fine. I kept asking and she kept reassuring me. Finally, she got tired of my asking, pulled into a Burger King and made me get out. The butterflies were engaged in open warfare, but nothing happened. Everything was OK, the butterflies declared a truce, and I was able to calm down. I climbed back into the car, and we were once again off for P-town.

We arrived at Ocean's Inn at 2 p.m. and the fun began. I had the equivalent of four suitcases to Karyn's one, and did I ever take a ribbing from all the wives and from Karyn. The ribbing didn't stop me, but after bringing all that stuff up to the room I remembered something important. I forgot to bring any male clothes, and we had to pick up the kids by 6 p.m. Sunday.

Our friends Cheryl and Karen Costa had just arrived, so we chatted for a bit, then headed for the bar. The gang was there. I received the run down on the Wives Support Group and what they are trying to accomplish. The women supported each other and their husbands, and were very open about all the problems and hang-up's that they encountered. They were really a fun-loving nice group of people, and we talked and talked. Then Sahdji showed up. Sahdji was a female impersonator appearing with Jan Russell at the Pilgrim House. She started talking with the group, and before long had us all rolling on the floor laughing.

Before we knew it, it was 6 p.m., time to get dressed for dinner. After an afternoon of drinking Pearl Harbors and Cape Codders, and laughing, getting dressed was a challenge. Ping....pull....oops! A little makeup, a white low-cut dress, 4" heels...not bad! Considering.

Angela and Gail from Syracuse arrived (after driving nine hours through rain and fog) and joined us for dinner. All the girls looked great, and the dinner was delicious (chicken stuffed with broccoli and cheese, mushrooms, zucchini with peppers, cheese, onions and carrots all finely chopped on top, potatoes broiled and prime rib). Sahdji and Jan showed up dressed for the show, and did they look beautiful. (Diana Ross move over. You have competition with Sahdji.) They provided us with more jokes, and more laughter, and reserved front row seats to their show on Saturday night.

After dinner we adjourned back to the bar to make new friends and share

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more laughter. Then it was off to a pajama party in Merissa's room to sing a lot of old songs, and share more laughter. Merissa sure could play that guitar, and it was a lot of fun, but by 1 a.m. Karyn and I were ready for our beauty sleep. It was off to Never Never Land (Peter Pan take me away, it's been a long day).

The alarm went off at 6 a.m. Time to shower, shave, put on my face, and get dressed. I was ready by 8. Karyn got up at 7:30 and was ready by 8. It was off to breakfast. I had decided to wear a pink blouse and a denim skirt with a white sweater, and I thought I looked great, completely passable. Angela joined us. Gail hadn't slept very well and decided to sleep in. The three of us started off for breakfast, we turned at the wharf and passed two guys emptying the garbage. Both of them looked at us, one turned to the other and said, "Well, it must be October." I could hardly contain myself, and we chuckled all the way to Prontos restaurant.

We arrived at Prontos where Merissa joined us. We had some good conversation about the international convention Tiffany is planning for Chicago in 1987.

After breakfast Karyn and I went shopping. We first went to a T-shirt store to buy for the kids, then for ourselves. We then went from one end of town to the other, visited every shop, looking, trying things on, shopping. It was a wonderful day. At 3 p.m. we went to the West End Beauty Parlor to have my hair done. The beautician, John, did a great job. I got nothing but compliments on my hair for the rest of the day and evening.

I spent the rest of the afternoon at a meeting about how Tiffany, TV Entertainers, EON and Butterfly could work better together. After the meeting it was time to get dressed for dinner.

For dinner I wore my grey puffed sleeved blouse with white lace collar and cuffs, Karyn's black skirt, a little darker on the makeup. Karyn said I looked great, and I felt pretty for the first time in a long time. We departed for the Mews, one of P-town's more elegant restaurants, had a delicious meal with very very nice people for company.

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After dinner we went to the Pilgrim House for Sahdji's show. The show was marvelous, we laughed, we cried, it was great - one of the best shows I have seen. Sahdji and Jan did an excellent job.

After the show we trekked back to the Inn to get into our nightgowns for another pajama party. There was more singing, laughter, and talk. Sahdji joined us and showed us some wig tricks that she picked up over the years...a small tuck here, a little fluff there, comb-out here, comb-out there, and walla, a change that was almost unbelievable. By 3 a.m. Karyn and I were beat, so we said our goodnight's to all.

7 a.m. came much too early. Off came the makeup, on went the men's clothes I bought (since I forgot to bring any), packed Renee away, packed all the bags, loaded the car, and off to join Jim (Angela) and Gail for breakfast at Napi's. After breakfast we went back to the Inn to say our good-bye's. No one had seen me any

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other way than as Renee. No one recognized me - must admit there were a few I didn't recognize either. No matter, we said our tearful goodbye's to all our new and old friends, and were reluctantly on our way.

P.S. If any one of our new friends reads this, the affair was great, and the organizers did a fantastic job putting it together. Karyn and I thank you all for the love and kindness you showed us, we really do appreciate it. We hope to see you all soon.

- END -

(Edited from the Seahorse Victoria Newsletter, published by the Seahorse Club, Box 2337V, G.P.O. Melbourne, 3001 Australia)

LEARNING TO LIVE WITH TRANSVESTISM

- Anonymous

Deciding how to begin this article has been difficult, but I suppose the best place is the beginning. Twenty years ago, twenty short years, I was born into what I suppose you could call a typical family, father-breadwinner, mother-housewife. My sexual knowledge was limited - an inexplicit and non-explanatory dated film in the sixth grade, and a short sex education session in science class in third. I knew the difference between hetero-sexuals and homosexuals and how intercourse was performed, but as for subjects like transvestism, and trans-sexualism, I knew little or nothing - nothing at all - until I met Tom.

At the age of nineteen, and after knowing Tom only for a short time, I broke all the conventions of marriage and moved into a flat with him. tom was separated from his wife, and not yet divorced, so marriage was out of the question. We set up house as a couple in an inner city suburb of Melbourne.

Life was great: we were free with each other, there were no inhibitions. One night while watching television, Tom asked me about my girlfriend Karen. She and I were extremely close, more so than most sisters, and he asked me if I had been sexually involved with her, since we were so close. I said I hadn't, but I had wondered what it might have been like to have a love affair with another woman. Tom suggested that I might be able to find out what it would be like without having to be with another female. Sounds strange, I know, but let me explain.

Tom was the most gentle, caring and sensitive person I had ever met. he sometimes reminded me of my mother, holding me and protecting me from all life's harshness. He also believed that any fantasies either of us had such as this one of mine, should be expressed. He suggested that I should dress him as a female to see if it would give me some indication of the feelings experienced by two women in an intimate relationship. His idea interested me a great deal - I had the fantasy but I didn't want to involve anyone else, in this case a female, in our relationship. My life was with Tom and I didn't want any one or anything to come between us. I agreed to his suggestion.

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I bought a long black satin negligee and a pair of silky knickers for Tom which I thought would be suitable for our experiment. It was a luxurious feeling cuddling up to Tom wearing his regalia in bed. The soft silkiness of the negligee made me feel I was floating on a cloud. However, much as I enjoyed the sensation, I wanted to be caressed by, and caress, Tom as a male. It was then that I realized I just wasn't cut out for a lesbian affair.

A few nights later Tom became extremely emotional. He sat at the kitchen table and let his heart out to me. He told me how great the feeling of the negligee had been when he had worn it to bed with me, that it wasn't right that he should feel "nice" like that; after all, he was supposed to be a male, and men did not have feelings like that. Just the same, he wished he could experience the softness more often. he told me that in his childhood his mother had dressed him as a girl, because she wanted a daughter. She had an extremely hard life with a husband who had no respect for her, and bashed her day and night. She got to the point where she detested all men, and so when Tom was born she couldn't face the thought of having a boy - another male - in the home. Tom had tried to rid himself of his feelings because he didn't believe society would accept people like him. Most of all he was afraid I might not be able to understand or cope with his feelings, and that I might leave him as a result.

I was at a loss for words and extremely confused in my thoughts. The only thing I could think of saying was what was in my heart - that I would cope and learn to understand his feelings, and that I would never leave him because of them. Comprehending why Tom had these feelings or how I was going to cope was another story all together. I could not see any harm in Tom dressing up in front of me, but what about when we married and had children? Would they be able to understand? What if other people found out about Tom's feelings? More than anything else, would those feelings ever diminish? That was what I hoped. I though if I allowed Tom to go all the way and dress as a woman whenever he liked, he might get it out of his system. Looking back on it now, I realize that my thoughts could scarcely have been more inconsiderate and selfish. Anyway, I went out and bought Tom a dress, a slip, stockings and high heels. He put them on the night I brought them home, and they felt fantastic! All the tension of that emotional night when Tom told me his innermost feelings and fears was gone. We joked about the way my wardrobe was diminishing, and the way my stockings were finding their way into his underwear drawer and a "have you got my panties on again?" syndrome began to appear. I had always enjoyed experimenting with makeup and hot rollers, and Tom was a willing and appreciative model.

I thing what helped me accept everything a little more was that Tom deferred to me. He'd never ask me to paint his nails or put on his lipstick. Any encouragement for him to get into skirts had to come from me. I was the one to tell him to try putting on his makeup, or try another of my dresses, or before climbing into bed, to slip into his negligee. Even though I still did not fully understand how deep Tom's desires where I still encouraged him. I believed that if it made him happy I had no business trying to make him shelve or hide his feelings. This was encouraged when I began to notice the changed in Tom's personality when he was being womanly. He seemed to have more energy and vitality, his temper quieted down and he would stay calm instead of getting upset and yelling. Our lovemaking improved as he became more interested in himself as well as me. Most of all, as he expressed it to me, he felt as if the world had been lifted from his shoulders, and all his problems and worries disappeared from his mind. With all these physical and emotional changes, I would have been a fool to try to stop him crossdressing. I mean, if a mere change of clothes can so enhance his personality, anyone ought to be able to adjust and accept, if not totally, at least in part.

I felt I was coping well with the situation. It became an accepted part of our relationship. Tom became more interested in trying out his own makeup or in choosing which dress he wanted to wear. Then, one evening I came home from work to find Tom in one of my,

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sorry, OUR dresses, sitting at the table. Three months before I would have been shocked, but now I felt proud that Tom was comfortable enough that I could cope with the thought of him feeling good as a female and trusted his judgment that I would not be upset by his show of independence. He watched me closely and when he was satisfied that I had not taken offense, he let out a sigh of relief and looked at me, clearly delighted not only with his own dress sense, but also with my acceptance of it.

Perhaps I make it sound all too simple - believe me, it wasn't. When your fiance or husband tells you he wishes he didn't have the body and genitalia he has, that his life would be so much happier as a total woman, that he would like to have a sex change and not just dress as a woman, emotions can run extremely high! I spent night after night lying in bed feeling if it wasn't for me, Tom could have everything he wanted, thinking that maybe I should leave him, and let him have his own life as a woman. Was it fair to him for me to stop him doing what he wanted so badly? How much should I give? These and a million other questions worried me for some time. More than anything else, I wanted to marry Tom and have his children. We talked about my queries and eventually Tom suggested that i should ring Gayline. There might be someone there who could help me find some answers. He thought that if I could speak to someone else who had the same feelings as himself, they might be able to explain how and why, better than he. I phoned, and Gayline provided me with the number of a transvestite called Jasmine who might be able to help me.

Jasmine has been a TV for many years, and was quite used to receiving agony calls like mine. I told her my problems, and though she could not give me all the answers, she did provide a great deal of encouragement. She told me that the feeling of wanting to be female often started in early childhood, even before birth perhaps, and for a variety of reasons. She also told me that these feelings are or can be very strong, and that in her opinion, the way I had approached and handled the situation was better than most of her other callers. She explained that because the desires are so deep, if I had tried to prevent Tom from expressing them, it could have had emotional and psychological repercussions on Tom and our relationship. This gave me a great deal of confidence and it was then that I realized that I had done the right things in allowing Tom to express himself, and not making him suppress his desires.

Jasmine and I talked about how our children would cope. In simple terms she told me "not every family has a husband and father who is a TV, but then, not every family has a father who bashes his wife or children, or who is in prison. Every case is difficult and different, and very often, children adjust and accept the situation a lot better than adults. Don't concern yourself with things that don't apply now, just let it ride." All that made sense, and comforted me a great deal.

Jasmine's encouragement and the strong bond of love between Tom and myself have made my acceptance of Tom's feminine feelings a good deal easier. Before I wrote this, I understood the word transvestite to mean abnormal. I don't think Tom is abnormal, and now I don't regard his feelings as a problem which has to be confronted, as I did when I first learned about his desires. Once understanding comes of why the feelings are there, and you can accept, as I have, that they are there and need an outlet, the road is downhill all the way. I won't pretend that it is the easiest thing in the world to accept, but it certainly can't be the hardest either! My acceptance comes from having a loving, caring, and honest partner such as Tom, and a friend like Jasmine.

Tom now and again speaks of wanting a sex change, but he adds that to marry me and have me bear his children the way he is, is more important to him. I no longer take any offense at his wanting to dress as a woman, or even to be one. I can understand why: I am a woman and proud of it! Maybe some day, society and its stereotype of the "macho man" will relax a little and the world will accept people like Tom and Jasmine and many others. For them, their wives and their families, I certainly hope so.

- END -

THE PROBLEM OF EMPLOYMENT

by

Connie Knight

One of the problems transsexuals face is presenting an employer with a valid work history and education background that can be verified without bringing up questions that could prejudice their chances of obtaining more than menial jobs. I was faced with this problem. I didn't know what I was going to do to earn my living after I started the transition program. I had no illusions of a "knight in shining armor" carrying me off to his castle where I would live happily ever after. I knew I would have to work and earn my living.

I am a graduate civil engineer. Many women work as civil engineers but they have one thing I do not have. I cannot provide an employer with references and education background under my name of Connie Knight. This could be explained to some employers but to many it would be met with a closed mind and closed door. So, what could I do?

I sat down at my kitchen table and took inventory. I took an inventory of myself, my abilities, my education, my talents (if any), and last of all I listed my needs. How much would I have to earn as a woman to live in the style I would be comfortable with? This must be an honest evaluation.

To arrive at a realistic figure, I listed my house payment or rent payment. I then listed approximately what my groceries would cost for a year, allow for an increase in prices, and all expenses I could think of that would be more or less permanent costs. My insurance, automobile, clothes, entertainment...all were set down and totaled. I was surprised at the figure. It was surprising lower than I had anticipated. This was a relief because I wasn't sure just what I was capable of earning at this time.

Then, I turned back to my list of personal assets. I discovered that I had listed writing as one of my desires. This is a dream I've had for many years and all but forgot how important it was to me at one time. Writing would permit me to be as creative as I needed to be. It would allow me to earn as much as I was capable of producing. It would also provide the most important privilege of all privileges; it would allow me to be productive with only my talent as a writer needing to be proved, not who I was, who I used to be and what I used to do. Nothing matters except my ability to produce entertaining and or informative articles. I knew I had the opportunity to fulfill a need and make a dream come true.

After settling on trying my hand at writing, I wanted to know how I got started. Did I just write something and send it to an editor? As tempting as it was, I had my suspicions that it was a little more involved than that.

A trip to the local library was my first move. I found a copy of Writer's Market, the "Bible" of freelance writers. Thumbing through it introduced me to editors, it gave me an insight as to what they were looking for. I discovered how to submit to particular publications and what to expect in the line of pay for my work. Whew!

Luckily, my high school English teacher was an old spinster that MADE you learn a verb from an adverb and she was very adamant about leaving your participle dangling. With my participle securely tucked away, I felt as if I had a chance with this writing thing.

I bought a manual typewriter (electric ones were too expensive for just an experiment), a ream of paper, 6 bottles of liquid correction fluid (I knew my typing ability), and a box of envelopes. I was ready to "do my thing."

That was four years ago. I now have about 600 rejections piled up, but lately I've had several articles, stories and even three books accepted. In all, I have over 300 articles published. I have also established Connie Knight as a real person with a background that is open to inspection to all who can read.

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Writing may not be the salvation to all your problems. It was mine; at least part of my problems were solved by writing. But there is an opportunity for you to be yourself without having to explain yourself to every curious boss you encounter. Not all bosses are insensitive and crude, but why put yourself through the ordeal of going over things you want left behind? you'll never be able to leave your past if you must keep bring it up in explanations.

Look at your local newspaper's want-ads. Check out the opportunities that interest you. List your abilities, talents, and desires; match them to the available job opportunities and see how you come up to the requirements.

This calls for complete honest with yourself. I would recommend NOT having anyone help you with it. It is too easy to be influenced by how others see you when you're trying to do a personal evaluation.

It is my belief that there are as many resolutions to problems as there are problems. These resolutions must be suitable to the individual's personality, ability and needs. I also believe that the help must be initiated within the individual. Of course, help from outside, such as friends, qualified counselors and others is necessary but only after a true self-evaluation.

Transsexuals are creative. We've proven that by creating what we feel we really are out of what we were born. Let your mind work for you.

- END -

(Edited from 'Gender Review', the official organ of the Federation of American and Canadian Transsexuals, published by GenderServe, P.O. Box 291, Station 'A', Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, L8N 3C8. Editor - Susan C. Huxford.)

SOME THOUGHTS ON FEMALE-TO-MALE TRANSSEXUALISM

by

Susan C. Huxford
Dir. GenderServe

Leslie Lothstein's book has already had its reviewers and its detractors. a well-known female-to-male transsexual has told me that he threw the book down in disgust before he was a third of the way through it. A psychiatrist working in the field of gender dysphoria syndrome said, "Don't talk to me about Leslie Lothstein!" The Executive Director of Metamorphosis Medical Research Foundation, at first very hostile to Dr. Lothstein, seems to have tempered his own reviews of the book in the light of reviews by Dr. Paul Walker (HBIGDA Newsletter, Fall 1984) and Dr. Eileen Higham (SIECUS Report, May 1984) and others. In an earlier issue of Gender Review (Fall 1984) this author has herself asked 'Gender Dysphoria: A Mental Illness?' in reviewing the work of one of Dr. Lothstein's colleagues, Dr. Stephen Levine.

It is not my purpose to write yet another review of Dr. Lothstein's work, but rather to offer an exposition and to attempt to discover the positive aspects that he sees through his window. If those of us whom he would label as transsexual can regard his book dispassionately, what lessons may we learn? After all, if we are to discover our own true selves, we are well advised to learn as much about ourselves as we can, even if we do not always like what we learn.

The professionals among my readers may well ask "Can a transsexuals judge the condition dispassionately?" My reply is that, while they look through windows that are limited by their own training and experience, a transsexual with training and experience has done something that they cannot achieve: he or she has been inside the house. Such a person as a unique view of things; it is as though he or she could climb up on the roof and enter the house through a skylight.

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From the very outset, it is obvious that much of what Dr. Lothstein writs is applicable to so-called transsexuals as a whole an not to the F-to-M exclusively. It has to be recognized that Dr. Lothstein is as uncomfortable with the term "transsexual" as is this writer. Early in his book (p.47) he indicates a preference for the use of "gender dysphoria syndromes": nevertheless, he follows common practice and lumps everybody together as transsexual.

In making a legitimate claim to be writing the first book on female-to-male transsexualism, Leslie Lothstein deals with some common assumptions regarding the syndrome in general and applies them specifically to the genetic female. He does not consistently insist that transsexualism is a psychological state. as Dr. Milton Eber states in his Foreword, "For him the transsexual patient can only be understood through study of the complex interplay of biological, psychological, and social forces" (p.xii). Because Dr. Lothstein himself states "Robert Stoller...has been my personal mentor" (p.xiii), the gender dysphoric reader sees only the psychological viewpoint - and that a specialized one - and overlooks the fact that Dr. Lothstein recognizes the influences of social forces and does not exclude the possibility of biological forces. Lothstein does what he is best at: he believes in psychoanalysis and seeks his solutions there. Were I to write a book on the social forces that lead to gender confusion, my transsexual friends would accuse me of believing that it is all the fault of society and not biological or psychological at all. I would be in more hot water than Dr. Lothstein, because I would be stepping on the toes of politicians, clergy and others, some of whom seem to think that they live in the best of all possible worlds. These are the knights in the shiny white armor that is rusty inside.

Who can claim that Leslie Lothstein is an unfeeling researcher when he can write "we have been privy to innumerable instances in which our patients' real psychological problems have been ignored, as they have been berated, lectured, and exhorted by clinicians to give up their transsexualism. some people....(have) been viewed as sinners who were in need of salvation?" (p.5) There is not a transsexual or transsexual-inclined person with whom I have talked who has not experienced such a negative attitude. The tragedy is that the vast majority of these people deny the existence of any psychological problem. This is a defense mechanism excouraged, not by any psychological state, but by social forces. To some of these people the threat of committal to a "mental institution" is enough to keep them away from any "shrink", even supposing that they could afford his fees. Professional ignorance of gender dysphoria syndrome is rampant; FACT receives inquiries of the order "where can I find someone who understands?" from all over the continent.

Dr. Lothstein also recognizes the other extreme. He recognizes the existence of "clinicians who....(react) with an enthusiasm for sex reassignment surgery" (p.5). these are the clinicians who, more than any others, need to read this book and take it to heart. Unfortunately, I suspect that they will not. Like their patients, they are so dead-set against psychotherapy that they give it a wide berth. Such an attitude is understandable: it is in reaction against the majority of physicians, psychiatrists and psychologists who have so little contact with gender dysphoria syndrome that they regard the condition as deviant and psychotic. Even psychology textbooks give it scant attention.

This, however, does not excuse swinging the pendulum to the other extreme. There are too many scalpel-happy practitioners who will perform SRS with an absolute minimum of psychiatric work-up. There is also an effective transsexual underground that spreads the news around: if you can come up with the money, we can find you the surgeon. this encourages prostitution, embezzlement, theft and uttering. The dysphoric person, caught in a web of criminality, is in and out of jail as a result and no self-respecting gender clinic will look at him (her) until (s)he can prove that (s)he is going straight. On the other hand, there are those who get into the hands of certain irresponsible practitioners who dose them up with

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hormones and perform clandestine castrations. These "patients" never raise the funds for complete SRS and exist in a limbo of unfulfillment. some even swing back and forth between a male and a female identity. Others seem to have invented their own category and wish to be known as "transgenderists". Finally, there are those who achieve SRS and yet find it impossible to adjust to their new sex. These unfortunates either live almost exclusively in their original (chromosomal) sex role or adopt the sex role most suitable to the occasion. This is not a matter to be taken lightly. I have met every one of these types and Dr. Lothstein obviously knows that they exist.

One of the chief complaints laid at the door of Leslie Lothstein by F-to-M transsexuals is that he refers to them all in the feminine gender (she), even postoperatively. As a writer, I sympathize with Dr. Lothstein. I feel certain that, had he been in the shoes of my own psychiatrist and written a report on my own case from our very first meeting, he would have referred to me in the masculine gender (he). I should be disgusted if, on meeting me now, he were to refer to me as "he"; I cannot believe that he would be so unfeeling and bigoted. He would be displaying a neurosis himself.

Why, then, should he appear to be bigoted in writing? The answer is surely that he is writing a critical, systematic book for professional readers, many of whom will have had little or no experience of the syndrome. I agree with Lothstein that the present description of "Transsexualism" in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association (D.S.M.III; 302.5x) is inadequate and can be misleading. When a recognized authority such as Dr. Lothstein writes a book, he must be as unambiguous as possible. To change horses in mid-stream is dangerous. To refer to the same patient as "she" before the adoption of the cross-gender identity and as "he afterwards, or even to make the distinction after SRS, is unnecessarily confusing to the uninitiated reader. One of Dr. Lothstein's aims is to educate: F-to-M transsexuals must excuse him when he rubs them up the wrong way. In the first instance, in spite of their fantasy, they are "she", even if they consider themselves to be "males trapped in female bodies". For the sake of clarity, Lothstein uses "she" throughout.

- END -

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Issues 40 to 46 $8.00 per copy
Issue 39 $ 6.00 per copy
Issues 34, 36, 37 $4.00 per copy
(Issues 35 & 38 are sold out)
Issue 33 $3.00 per copy

(Issues 1-32 were in newsletter form and are not available)

SAMC NOTICE

In Issue #47 we omitted the SAMC Believing they had ceased operations. Then we retracted that omission believing they were still active. Well, they're not. Please delete the San Antonio Motorcycle Club (SAMC) from your references.

STAMPS-STAMPS-STAMPS

As you know, the Tapestry is a non-profit publication that also serves as an information clearing house. Now we have added the IFGE, which adds greatly to the already overwhelming postal burden. The average mailing cost is approaching $300 per month. To keep up WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

Send your contribution to: Tapestry, Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX deductible

INTRODUCING:

the INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION for GENDER EDUCATION

At GGA's "Spring Fling '85" the idea for the development of the TV/TS Community's own convention was born. Recognizing the need for such a convention was the easy part. The hard part was to find a sponsor acceptable to all parties involved. We spent our time at the convention clarifying the nature of such a convention, and outlining the problems.

At Tiffany's P-town Convention, the Tiffany Board of Directors came up with a proposal: The Tiffany Club was tax-exempt and listed in its constitution 'Conventions' as one of its services. Tiffany could form a separate educational branch (as Tapestry is a separate publications branch) and call it I.F.G.E. I.F.G.E. would have a separate account, a separate advisory board, be answerable to the Tiffany Board of Directors but designed to serve the entire Community. I.F.G.E. could sponsor the convention on behalf of the Community.

The proposal was further clarified at the 'Be All' weekend in Ann Arbor. Letters were sent to all organizations offering the proposal, and seeking representatives to serve on the convention advisory board.

To date an I.F.G.E. account has been established, representatives from 26 different organizations are serving on the board of advisors, the first international convention has been set for Chicago in March 1987, and Merissa Lynn and Elaine Willey have been selected to serve as co-directors.

If you would like additional information concerning th I.F.G.E. or the 1987 Convention, contact: Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778 617-358-2305

NEW ORGANIZATIONS:

Wayland, MA: (Service)
International Foundation for Gender Education, P.O. Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778 617-358-2305

Brooklyn, NY: (Social, TV/TS)
As A Woman, c/o B. Fortune, Box 369, Brooklyn, NY 11235 718-852-4290

Knoxville, Tennessee: (Social TV/TS)
BUTTERNUT BELLES (and GUYS), Box 3585, Knoxville, TN 37917 call: Wendy at 524-1629 (7 - 9 p.m.)

Cincinnati, Ohio: (Social TV/TS)
CROSS-PORT, Attn: Heather, 2020 "B" Beechmont Ave, P.O. Box 150 Cincinnati, OH 45230

Minneapolis / St Paul, MN: (Social)
City of Lakes Cross-Dressers Club, c/o A.Y. Cowell, 3917 France Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55416 612-920-3316

San Antonio, TX: (Social TV/TS)
Boulton & Park Cultural Society, c/o Ms Mary Francis Williams, P.O. Box 169652, San Antonio, TX 78280-3252

Las Vegas, NV: (Social)
Transition Club, c/o T.C. Onekea, Box 42454, Las Vegas, NV 89116 731-5814 (ask for "TC")

San Diego, CA: (Social)
Neutral Corner, c/o W. Thomas, Box 99732, San Diego, CA 92109

San Jose, CA: (Female-to-Male TS)
The Billy DeFrank Community Center, 86 Keyes St., San Jose, CA (408) 293-4525, Hal (408) 293-2429

Seattle, WA: (TV/TS Rap Group)
Seattle Counseling Service, 1505 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98122 (206) 329-8737

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Please send _____ copies of "INFORMATION FOR THE FEMALE-TO-MALE". I have enclosed $6.00 for each book ordered. Note to Retailers: Inquire about pricing.

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TRANS RO MAR,
NEW CLUB IN NEW YORK CITY, FAILS

TransRoMar is a private club dedicated to bringing a safe, comfortable and sophisticated club to the TV/TS Community in NYC closed its doors less than two months after opening. Additional details are not available.

INTRODUCING:

THE EMERALD CITY

The Emerald City is a service organization for transvestites. It provides its members with some of the experiences, materials, and information necessary to function in the female role in public.

The Emerald City has four aims: 1) To provide safe public and semi-public activities for its members in order to build their confidence and perfect their presentation. 2) To provide safe public and semi-public activities for its members in order to build their confidence and perfect their presentation. 3) To educate the general public through frequent and pleasant encounters in order to dispel fear and ignorance and promote acceptability. 4) To develop leaders who will carry on and expand this work.

The Emerald City was officially founded in 1983. There had been TV activities in Seattle before, of course, but a formal structure was needed. The new organization revamped the newsletter, fixed a schedule of operations, and collected dues. We are now affiliated with the Ingersoll Gender Center, the Seattle Counseling Service for Sexual Minorities, and the TV/TS Support Group. providing a first class education/support organizations for the Seattle area transvestite community.

This is a fun organization! We arrange evenings out every month with enough variety to appeal to the tastes and budgets of all our members. Our staff personally visits each restaurant, store, tavern, etc., and interviews the manager to ensure that we will be treated well. We also schedule private parties at motels or homes for those not yet ready for public exposure.

And that's not all! We have built a sizeable list of vendors who are happy to do business with us. Clothing, counseling, nutrition, electrolysis, optometrists, restaurants, motels, taverns, and many specialty shops have been qualified by our staff. Members can feel comfortable doing business with these people without fear.

We offer many other benefits including a newsletter, contacts for information and services, and good friends. Our connections with other organizations and professionals greatly broaden the range of services we can offer our members. Best of all, our very existence stands as a symbol of pride and freedom for transvestites everywhere.

We are not a therapy group, a political group, or a dating service. Members are expected to exhibit exemplary conduct which reflects well on themselves and on the rest of us.

membership in the Emerald City is by sponsorship only. we prefer to get to know our prospective members before accepting their application. In this way we help to ensure the privacy and security of all concerned.

For more information, or to apply for membership, please come to the Seattle TV/TS Support Group Meeting, held every Friday at 8:00 PM in the offices of the Seattle Counseling Service, 1505 Broadway, Seattle WA 98122

Or write: The Emerald City, Box 331318, Seattle, WA 98103.

FOR SALE

'SECOND SERVE', Renee Richards' biography. These are new hardbacks, originally sold for 16.95. Will sell for $7.25 each, including shipping (nine copies available.)

'CONUNDRUM', Jan Morris' biography (hardback, used, good condition) $7.25 including shipping (one copy available).

Interested persons may send a money order to: M. Kibler, Box 218, jeromesville, OH 44840

INTRODUCING:

THE SALMACIS SOCIETY

Salmacis is different, or at least we like to think so. There are lots of other organizations for TVs. There are correspondence clubs, social organizations, counseling groups, and so on. The list seems endless.

Yet with all these, there was still a gap. Was there any organization, anywhere, that helped TVs get together with girls who wouldn't freak out completely if their boy friend asked to borrow a dress for the evening?

It's true many of the other organizations didn't discourage girls from joining. Indeed many welcomed the girlfriends and wives of members, but that wasn't enough. What was needed was a group that would actively seek out female members, that would try to get across to girls, many of whom had never heard of a TV, the message that "Hey, here's a bunch of guys who aren't hung up on the stereotype he-man image, but who are still very much interested in meeting girls as friends, companions or anything else that might develop."

SALLY DOUGLAS, a well known personality among San Francisco Bay area TVs decided about a year ago that the time was right to try to fill this gap.

Sally probably knows as many TVs as anyone around, so she got to work and sent out invitations to the local people she thought might be interested in the project.

The response was encouraging and the first couple of meetings, though pleasant social events themselves, were devoted to figuring out how to attract more female members.

As the club grew, it also changed. From introducing girls to TVs, it was a shore and logical step to providing an atmosphere where any feminine person (male or female) could feel comfortable meeting other feminine people (male or female). With this in mind the club shifted from meeting in private homes to meeting in various women's bars in the area. This also has the advantage of moving the meeting place around so that if one location is inconvenient, the other would probably be better. It has also interested people who might otherwise not have heard of the club.

Currently the club meets at two locations, but plans are afoot to hold some special events in other places with the thought in mind of increasing the number of clubs available for the regular meetings as well. The special events planned are in addition to the current schedule of 'socials' every first and third Thursday of the month.

One of the club's biggest problems is trying to reach the people who might be interested, particularly when this is such a specialized group. Since fresh faces and new points of view are the key to success in a social organization like Salmacis, the advertising campaign is kept up in any way the members can devise that seems practical. So far classified ads in underground and women's newspapers, a permanent phone number for information, posters in the place we meet, and a prospectus explaining the group have been tried. In addition to this general advertising, articles like this one in specialized publications like DRAG and the TV/TS TAPESTRY should reach people we might otherwise miss.

Currently the only requirement for joining SALMACIS is a strong pro-feminine interest, but attendance at social functions is usually limited in that males must be feminine in appearance and deportment (at least while the meeting is going on!) Occasionally at some special event this rule is relaxed so that people not yet members can become acquainted with the group.

Salmacis began in the San Francisco area, but people in other parts of the country have been inquiring about organizing chapters, and work is under way to find methods of making this possible.

IF YOU are interested in Salmacis you should write: Salmacis Society, PO Box 1604, Eugene, OR 97440-1604

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC of DENVER

EUROPEAN TOUR - FUND RAISER

The Gender Identity Center is presenting a tour of Scandinavian Gender Clinics, in conjunction with the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association's Tenth Symposium, in Goteborg Sweden, in June 1987. The Center is offering the tour through Olive Tours, a tour speciality firm in Denver. We don't know yet the specific clinics that we will be able to visit, nor do we know the names of the specific cities. It is our plan to offer a 10 day tour either immediately preceding or immediately following the symposium; we hope to be able to visit about five clinics for a half-day each, allowing the travelers the remainder of each day, and the following day, for sight seeing.

Since information gathering and planning for the tour has just begun, we don't know the price at this time. We do know that a minimum of 15 will be required for the trip to be a "GO", and that it will be a fund raiser for GIC, with the Center receiving a $100 donation from every ticket sold.

We believe that the tour should be very popular and easy to sell since it will be tax deductible for the professional working in this area. There were 30 - 40 participants at the symposium in Bordeaux from the U.S. With preparations announced this early, it will be much easier for those planning to attend the symposium anyway, to plan the additional tour.

For additional information: Gender Identity Center, 3715 West 32nd Ave., Box 11563, Denver, CO 80211 303-458-5378

WANTED!!!

Poems, limericks, free verse on themes related to: transsexualism, transvestism, and androgyny for inclusion in forthcoming book: AN ANTHOLOGY OF TS, TV, AND ANDROGYNOUS VERSE. Send submissions to: Rupert Raj, METAMORPHOSIS, P.O. Box 5963, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1P4.

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JANUS INFORMATION FACILITY

under the direction of Paul A. Walker, Ph.D. provides referrals, pamphlets, reprint material and conducts research.

An advance contribution of $25.00 or more is requested since the Facility is depenent on private donations and funding.

The Facility welcomes the names of professionals willing to be on our referral list.

Letters from post-operative gender reassignment individuals concerning their adjustment in their new life are welcomed.

Address all correspondence to:
Paul A. Walker, Ph.D.
1952 Union Street
San Francisco, CA 94123

REFERENCES

Information Distribution Center

The organizations and individuals serving as information distribution centers are responsible for being familiar with the various services and organizations available in their given area. This information is to be distributed in accordance with the needs of the inquirer and not the private orientation of the organization or individual. (**** Please note that not all organizations listed in the Service or Social listings are willing or able to serve as general information distribution centers.)

Northeast

TIFFANY CLUB Information distribution throughout the New England area. Tiffany Club, Box 19, Wayland MA 01778 617-358-5575

THE OUTREACH INSTITUTE Information distribution throughout New England. The Outreach Institute, Kenmore Sta. Box 368, Boston MA 02215 617-277-3454

THE XX (TWENTY) CLUB Information distribution for New England, specializing in transsexualism. The XX Club, Box 6070 Station 'A', Hartford CT 06106

THE BETTER LIVING INSTITUTE Information distribution for the New York City Area. B.L.I., c/o Joyce Dewhurst, 37-50 76 St, Jackson Heights, NY 11372

CHERYL COSTA Information distribution for central and western New york. Cheryl Ann Costa, Box 7161, Endicott, NY 13760

L. FRANK Information distribution for Greater New York Metropolitan area. L. Frank, Box 9192, Morristown, NJ 07960 (201) 663-0772

Mid Atlantic, South

PHI CHAPTER Information distribution for New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware). c/o W. Beeman, Box 4128, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

Midwest, South Central

PARADISE CLUB Information distribution for Upper Mid-West (Western New York to Illinois) Paradise Club, Box 29564, Parma, OH 44129

CROSSROADS CHAPTER Information distribution Michigan/Ohio area. Crossroads Chapter, Box 1298, Flint MI 48501

MS SHARON RENEE HART Information distribution for Chicago area. Sharon Renee Hart, Box 2312, Chicago IL 60690 312-472-4518

MS MALINDA ANDERSON Information distribution for Wisconsin/Minnisota area. c/o R. Peterson, Box 524, Lake Mills WI 53551

CHARLENE BYRD Information distribution for Texas. Charlene Byrd, 9219 Anderson Mill Rd, Austin, TX 78729 1-512-250-8674

Southwest Northwest

RENAISSANCE GENDER IDENTITY SERVICES Information distribution for Southern California area. Renaissance, Box 11341, Santa Ana, CA 92711 714-836-1803

GATEWAY GENDER ALLIANCE Information distribution for Northern California area. GGA, 484 Lake Park Avenue, Suite 427, Oakland, CA 94610 (415) 763-6185

NORTHWEST CHAPTER Information distribution for Oregon/Washington area. Northwest Chapter, Box 4928, Portland OR 97208

Canada

FEDERATION OF AMERICAN AND CANADIAN TRANSSEXUALS (FACT) Information distribution throughout Canada. FACT, Box 291 Sta. 'A', Hamilton Ontario Canada L8N-3C8 416-529-7884

TRANSVESTITES AU MONTREAL (TAM) Information Distribution for the Montreal Canada area. TAM, Box 1164 Station H, Montreal Que Can H3G 2N1 514-352-7481

FOREIGN

TRANS-CCL Information distribution throughout Europe. Rev. Joseph Douce, Centre du christ Liberateur, Minoites Sexuelles, TRANS-CCL, 3 bis, rue Clairaut, 75017 Paris, France (1) 627-4936

THE SEAHORSE CLUB OF AUSTRALIA Information distribution for Australia. The Seahorse Club of Australia, Box R341, Royal Exchange, Sydney 2000, Australia

ORGANIZATIONS & SERVICES

New England

TIFFANY CLUB Box 19, Wayland MA 01778 617-358-2305

Nature: The Tiffany Club is a non-profit non-sexual social/educational organization for persons interested in crossdressing, for transsexual persons, and for relatives and friends. Tiffany has an international membership in excess of 600, welcomes all mature and responsible persons, and emphasizes friendship, support, good manners, common sense, and the security and peace-of-mind of all. Tiffany also works cooperatively with and in support of all non-profit organizations and services working on behalf of the TV/TS Community.

Services: The Tiffany Club publishes the TV/TS Tapestry. Tiffany also maintains a private facility near Boston (providing privacy, storage, a library, overnight accommodations, a hostelry for qualified travelers, and residence for persons in transition), and a balanced program of social and educational activities. Tiffany also maintains a support group for transsexuals, a support group for wives, and provides a hotline for information distribution, and referrals.

Security: If a person wishes to use Tiffany's facilities or attend a Tiffany function, that person must have met with and been cleared by a member of Tiffany's Screening Committee, or have a letter of introduction from a qualified person to ensure that the attendee understands Tiffany's objectives and will comply with Tiffany's security requirements and code of conduct.

THE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION for GENDER EDUCATION Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778 617-358-2305

Nature: The IFGE was formed to sponsor international conventions and other primarily educational programs serving the entire TV/TS Community, and those persons affected by and serving that Community.

Services: The only function at the moment is to sponsor the annual IFGE convention.

THE HUMAN OUTREACH AND ACHIEVEMENT INSTITUTE Box 368 Kenmore Station, Boston MA 02215

Nature: The Outreach Institute is a non-profit corporation whose purposes and objectives are educational. Outreach works predominantly with Helping Professionals from the fields of Education, Guidance & Counseling, Therapy, Medicine, Law & Law Enforcement, Nursing and Human Services.

Services: Outreach's programs include OPERN (Outreach Professional Evaluation and Referral Network). seminars & workshops, a newsletter, Fantasia Fair (a living/learning growth experience for crossdressers, transsexuals and androgynes both male and female), and a book and publication service. (Outreach's catalog of books and reprints is available for $3.00).

Security: Outreach's programs are strictly non-sexual and sophisticated. All participants at any Outreach program are expected to act accordingly.

TRANSCEND COUNSELING SERVICE 500 Newbury St., Springfield, MA 413-737-5032 Stephen E. Parent, M.A., Director

Services: Help with record, name, vocation, employment changes and resumes. Testing and psychological work-ups.

TRANSSEXUAL SOCIAL ASSOCIATION: TSA, Box 5753 Weybosset Hill Sta., Providence, RI 02903 1-401-521-7597 , Sherrie McDermott Pres., Donna Page V.P.

Nature: TSA is a non-profit membership organization open to all transsexuals. There is a supportive environment giving all transsexuals a respectful and confidential get-together.

Services: TSA distributes a monthly newsletter 'the TSA Monthly', social activities, educational, material, and group support. TSA also offers peer counselling and works in conjunction with counsellors, psychologists, endocrinologists. TSA also offers other workshops needed in the transitional period of all transsexuals.

Security: A candidate for membership must meet with the president or vice president.

THE XX (TWENTY) CLUB Box 6070 Station 'A', Hartford CT 06106 (information: George W. Henry Foundation 203-522-2646)

Nature: The XX Club is a non-profit, non-sexual, social-educational-medical-outreach organization for persons interested in transsexualism. Friends and relatives are also welcomed, as are all those interested or involved with the crossdressing community.

Services: The XX Club has a monthly newsletter, and holds 2 meetings each month (the 2nd and 4th Saturday). The meetings include educational and medical programs, outreach work and information distribution. We also have social get-togethers, club parties, etc.

Security: We place no security precautions on people who wish to subscribe to our newsletter. However, if an individual wishes to attend our meetings, that person must meet and be cleared by a member of our screening committee, or have a letter of introduction from a qualified person to ensure that the attendee understands the XX Club's objectives and goals and that the individual will comply with security requirements and code of conduct. We request that all who attend our functions or meetings respect our anonymity.

HARRIET LANE'S TV SET Harriet Lane, Box 4002 Yalesville Sta., Wallingford CT 06492 203-237-1968

Nature: Harriet Lane's is a social membership and guest club for all persons interested in crossdressing. TSs, relatives and friends welcome. The TV Set has 65+ active members with over 400 guests per year.

Services: Parties twice a month on 2nd & 4th Sat. - buffet - open bar or BYOB w/setups. Members may store clothes, and visit during the week. A newsletter every three months containing club dates, past parties & referrals of other clubs and coming attractions plus places to purchase femme wear. Overnight accommodations for qualified TVs, TSs and friends. Live-in cosmetologists.

Security: Security precautions are very mild to the point of a phone call to Harriet Lane for screening. No drugs or excessive alcohol will be tolerated - all participants at both parties will conduct themselves as ladies & gentlepersons. Treat all ladies & TV ladies as you would your mother or sister or daughter. With respect!!

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER GGA: Box 744, Branford, CT, 06405 Wendy J. Gwynne, Director

Nature: See 'Gateway Gender Alliance'

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC OF NEW ENGLAND 45 Church Street, Hartford, CT 06103

*** The following members of the Society for the Second Self (open to heterosexual crossdressers only) are interested in forming local chapters in the New England area:

New Hampshire: Ann Marie NH 1285 B
Hartford: Alice CT 1545 Z

Write: Carol Beecroft, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

New York

NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER (GGA): c/o Fem Fashions, Penthouse B, 157 W 57th St, New York, NY 10019 (212) 582-6823 Muriel Olive, Director

Nature: See 'Gateway Gender Alliance'

AS A WOMAN: c/o B. Fortune, Box 369, Brooklyn, NY 11235 718-852-4290 Barbara Fortune, Founder

Nature: 'As A Woman' is a self-help group for males who have a strong need to function as women in attire and deportment. It is non-sexual, and open to interested family members, friends, and women. 'As A Woman' welcomes all mature and responsible persons, and emphasizes friendship, support, good manners, common sense, and the security and peace of mind for all.

Services: Monthly meetings, educational programs, opportunities to blend into society as a woman through controlled exposure to being out in public.

Security: Meeting attendees are requested to sign an 'oath of secrecy', protecting the individuals attending the meeting.

LONG ISLAND SOCIAL CLUB contact: Kay & Ursula Kwarta, 50 Sunny Rd, St. James, NY 11780 (516) 584-7736

Nature: Monthly dinner parties in a non-sexual atmosphere. A social gathering for crossdressers, transsexuals, their relatives & friends.

Services: Meetings on the 4th Saturday of each month. Bring your own bottle. A $10 charge includes a hot meal. Limited space available for dressing. Reservations necessary, so enough food for all is available.

Security: A phone call to Kay will usually suffice. No drugs or excessive alcohol will be tolerated. All guests are expected to conduct themselves as ladies & gentlemen.

SEX INFORMATION AND EDUCATION COUNCIL OF THE U.S. (SIECUS) SIECUS, 80 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011

SIECUS is affiliated with the Department of Health Education of the School of Education, Health, Nursing, and Arts Professions of New York University. SIECUS deals with all sexually related issues, including gender expression.

JOYCE DEWHURST 37-50 76 St, Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Nature: Strictly social. Open to anyone interested in the crossdressing scene.

Services: Joyce Dewhurst sponsors frequent parties and debutante balls in NYC, and weekend outings to the Poconos in May and September.

Security: No screening or security requirements.

THE BETTER LIVING INSTITUTE c/o Joyce Dewhurst, 37-50 76 St, Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Nature: The BLI is a non-profit non-sexual social organization for novice and accomplished crossdressers. The emphasis is on novice crossdressers. Most programs are geared for the novice. Accomplished cross-dressers serve as our staff at meetings. The BLI is an educational arm of Joyce Dewhurst Parties, but both are separate and distinct.

Services: The BLI provides very informal get-togethers, beauty courses and a variety of social and educational events.

Security: No screening or security requirements. If, however, you do not meet our very liberal standards you will be so advised. This has happened only four times in five years.

METAMORPHOSIS P.O. Box 6245, Broadway Station, Long Island City, NY, 11106 718-728-4615

Nature: Psychotherapy and counseling for persons with gender identity/expression related problems.

CONFIDE - PERSONAL COUNSELING SERVICES INC. Box 56,Tappan NY 10983, 914-359-8860 or 914-997-1013, offices in Tappan NY and Hartsdale NY

Nature: Confide runs a therapy group in Tappan, comprising transsexuals, transvestites and persons who are trying to find themselves on the gender spectrum.

Services: Confide is a private service offering counseling, therapy, hypnosis and hypnotherapy, with a large proportion of our practice dealing with gender problems. Private therapy sessions are held with Garrett Oppenheim PhD FIC, the director, while Fae Robin, the co-director, offers coaching in grooming, manners, poise, makeup, shopping, etc. Dr. Oppenheim evaluates candidates for hormone therapy and sex reassignment surgery and makes referrals at the appropriate time.

Security: Membership in the group is contingent on a 1 1/2 hour screening session with Dr. Oppenheim.

TV ENTERTAINERS 226 Jefferson St, Albany, NY 12210 1-518-463-7774 (ask for Wilma)

Nature: Non-sexual group offering friendship and support

ANDROGYNY UNLIMITED: P.O. Box 4887, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602 1-914-462-7455 Roger E. Peo, Ph.D. Dir.

Nature: Androgyny Unlimited is a private service that provides counseling, research, education and supporting services for transgendered persons.

Services: Individual counseling is provided by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D. a board-certified sexologist, primarily for the transvestite/cross-dresser and/or his partner. Counseling is also provided for persons who are trying to determine if they are cross-dressers or transsexuals. Referrals will be made where appropriate. Make-up and shopping services for clients are also available. Classes, seminars and workshops on transgender issues and human sexuality are provided both for college and graduate level students and for other groups. Ongoing research is conducted on a variety of topics in the transgender field.

Security: Appointments for counseling and allied services can be made by writing to Dr. Peo at the above address or by phone.

THE BUTTERFLY GROUP, Box 7161, Endicott, NY 13760 Cheryl Anne Costa, Director, Shannon Micheals, President

Nature: The Butterfly group is a non-profit, non-sexual social/educational organization for persons interested in cross-dressing, for transsexual persons, and for relatives and friends.

Services: We have social get-togethers, a Couples Club, and a small network of professional and para-professionals, social workers, medical practitioners, beauty consultants, and clothing retailers who are interested and very helpful to us.

Security: Butterfly has no major security requirements, but we do require persons desiring to attend our meetings to be screened by our membership chairperson or other appointed member, or have a letter of introduction from a qualified person to ensure understanding and compliance with our code of conduct.

EON, PO Box 6293, Camillus, NY 13031

Nature: Non-profit, non-sexual, social/educational.

New Jersey, Pennsylvania

CHI DELTA MU CHAPTER (TRI ESS) Ms Lynda Frank, Box 9192, Morristown, NJ 07960 (201) 663-0772

Nature: See 'Society for the Second Self'.

Services: Get-togethers the 2nd Saturday of each month in either Northern New Jersey or Southern Westchester County NY. Very interested in attracting wives and girl friends. We have over 75 paid members, and have been in existence for over three years.

Security: Private interview with Chapter President or qualified member.

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY Ms Lynda Frank, Box 9192, Morristown, NJ 07960 (201) 663-0772

Nature: Open membership, non-sexual

Services: Get-togethers the last Saturday of each month at various locations in Northern NJ.

Security: Interview required.

PHI CHAPTER (GGA), c/o W. Beeman, Box 4128, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

Nature: Open membership, non-sexual social organization.

Services: Get-togethers on the 4th Saturday of each month in Cherry Hill, NJ. We are very interested in having wives and girl friends attend our meetings.

Security: Phi places emphasis on security to all. Membership is offered to those by referral of a club officer, a member in good standing, or by contacting the chapter for same.

NORTHERN N.J. GGA E. Malley, Northern NJ GGA, P.O. Box 9034, Morristown, NJ 07960
Nature: See 'Gateway Gender Alliance'

TRANSPITT, Box 59406, Pittsburgh, PA 15211 Johnnie D. Director
Nature: TransPitt is a non-profit non-sexual social organization with an open membership policy.
Services: Meetings the third Saturday of each odd numbered month. Referrals.
Security: Meeting with Club officer.

*** The following members of the Society for the Second Self (heterosexual cross-dressers only) are interested in forming chapters in the NJ PA area:
Philadelphia PA Melanie PA 1401 0
Pittsburgh PA Marcia PA 1394 F
Write: Carol Beecroft, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

Mid Atlantic, Southeast

JANUS/DC: c/o Gene Baker, Advisor, 5715 16th St., NW Washington, DC 20011
Nature: Transsexual support

ACADEMY AWARDS c/o B.A. Lind, Box 11254 Lincolnia Station, Alexandria, VA 22312
Nature: Theatrical drag, with an emphasis on the performing arts.

DELTA CHI CHAPTER: Box 11254 Lincolnia Sta., Alexandria, VA 22312
Nature: See 'Gateway Gender Alliance'.

BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON GGA: R. Lewis, P.O. Box 7644, Silver Spring, MD 20907
Nature: See 'Gateway Gender Alliance'.

MY CHOICE: Kathy Stevens, 1417 McHenry St, Baltimore, MD 21223
Nature: TV/TS support

NORFOLK TS GROUP: Donna Johnston, Box 1923, Norfolk, VA 23501
Nature: Transsexual support

THE MONTGOMERY FOUNDATION, INC.: Gender Dysphoric Association, PO Box 33311, Decatur, GA 30033
Nature: Strictly a support group for male and female pre- and post-op transsexuals. No fees.
Services: Referrals, rap sessions, and programs designed for the needs of the transsexual.

THE ELITE TV CO.: c/o Gigi Grant, P.O. Box 47686, Atlanta, GA 30362

THE TRANSSEXUAL VOICE: P.O. Box 16314, Atlanta, GA 30321
Nature: A newsletter written by and about transsexuals. $2.00 per copy, $12.00 per year.

SERENITY: c/o Nikki Bee, PO Box 307, Hollywood, FL 33022

BUTTERNUT BELLES (AND GUYS) Box 3585, Knxville, TN 37917, call: Wendy 524-1629 (between 7 and 9 p.m.)
Nature: See 'Gateway Gender Alliance'

*** The following members of the Society for the Second Self (heterosexual cross-dressers only) are interested in forming chapters in the Mid-Atlantic Southeast region:
Washington VA Jean VA 1472 D
Newport NC Diane NC 1596 M
Orlando FL Fritzie FL 1594 C; Stella FL 1701 L
Miami FL Nancy FL 1135 N
Mobil AL Donah AL 1577 H
Write: Carol Beecroft, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

Midwest, Southcentral

PARADISE CLUB Box 29564, Parma, OH 44129 Pres. Lindsay Maxwell, V.P. Ann Marie
Nature: Paradise is a non-profit non-sexual social organization with an emphasis on friendship and support (especially for wives). Paradise has approximately 90 members with an average of 50+ in attendance at each meeting.
Services: Paradise publishes a newsletter (Paradise Tales), and every other month sponsors a meeting with a catered dinner, and usually a special function such as a speaker, make-up advice, a show, etc. Paradise also sponsors informal socials during the months between regular meetings.
Security: Paradise welcomes all mature and responsible people, and places an emphasis on good manners, common sense, and the security of all. Membership is offered only after a personal interview with an officer. Non-members may attend meetings, with concurrence of officer. Open membership, but all members must be crossdressers, and must dress at meetings.

GENESIS Box 954, Elyria, OH 44036 (Attn: Jill)
Nature: See 'Society for the Second Self'

CROSS-PORT: (Attn: Heather), 2020 "B" Beechmont Ave, P.O. Box 150, Cincinnati, OH 45230

Nature: CROSS-PORT is a non-profit non-sexual organization for the male-to-female and female-to-male crossdresser and trans-sexual, and supportive friends, regardless of their sexual preference, practices, or orientation.

Services: CROSS-PORT publishes a monthly newsletter which is distributed to all it's members.

Security: All guests and members are expected to conduct themselves as ladies & gentlemen. Common sense is the rule. The mailing and membership lists are confidential. No member shall reveal the true name, address, telephone number or profession of another member to anyone, except with the other member's express permission.

CROSSROADS CHAPTER (President) c/o Crossroads Chapter, Box 449, Utica, MI 48087-0449

Nature: Crossroads is a non-profit non-sexual social organization emphasizing friendship and support and the peace of mind of all. Crossroads has a formal membership of approximately 90 and an informal membership of approximately 250.

Services: Crossroads publishes a newsletter (Crossroads Chatter), and sponsors both formal and casual social activities. Crossroads provides referrals to other organizations nationwide, and helping professionals in the Great Lake area. Crossroads also investigates agencies, businesses and organizations, and does considerable outreach work and publicity for the paraculture.

Security: Crossroads welcomes all mature and responsible people, and places an emphasis on good manners, common sense, and the security of all.

WINDY CITY CHAPTER (GGA): P.O. Box 2312, Chicago, IL 60690 Sharon Hart, President (312) 472-4518

Nature: See 'Gateway Gender Alliance'

CHI CHAPTER (TRI ESS): Chi Chapter, Box 2055, Des Plaines, IL 60018

Nature: See 'Society for the Second Self'

WISCONSIN NETWORK The Network, P.O. Box 632, Waukesha, WI 53187 (414) 542-5735 (3-9 p.m.)

Nature: The Network prefers to deal with people from a variety of life-styles (gay and bi- men and women, TVs, TSs, etc.) who are looking for long term relationships or help in developing relationships with others or with the family, friends, or other significant people in one's life.

Services: The Network includes a monthly newsletter, meetings monthly for gay men and women, bisexual men and women, and TVs and TSs. The Network also provides a monthly newsletter, social gatherings for special events, and a dating service.

PROGRAM IN HUMAN SEXUALITY 2630 University Ave, S.E, Minneapolis, MN 55414 Dr. eli Coleman, Dir.

Services: Details not available at this time.

CITY OF LAKES CROSS-DRESSERS CLUB 3917 France Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55419, Yvonne Cowell, President, 612-920-3316

Nature: Monthly meetings. The group's purpose is to provide a comfortable social setting for cross-dressers to meet like-minded folks. We are a non-sexual group when together, however personal orientation of individual members is not considered when newcomers apply to join us.

Security: A personal interview before coming to the first party.

MINNEAPOLIS CHAPTER TRI-ESS c/o Carol Beecroft, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

Nature: See 'Society for the Second Self'

ST. LOUIS CHAPTER TRI-ESS c/o Carol Beecroft, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

Nature: See 'Society for the Second Self'

BOULTON & PARK CULTURAL SOCIETY Box 169652, San Antonio, TX 78289-3252 Ms Mary Frances Williams, President

Nature: Open, non-profit, non-sexual support group for TVs, TSs, and their families and friends.

Services: Meetings, newsletter, business directory.

Security: Persons attending a meeting are subject to screening. We will deny access to any person that in our opinion represents a threat to our 'security' on an individual or group basis.

TRI DELTA CHAPTER TRI-ESS: Houston, TX, c/o Carol Beecroft, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

Nature: See 'Society for the Second Self'

GALVESTON PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES 6608 Stewary, #321, Galveston, TX 77551-1838 (713) 763-4522 Dr. Collier M. Cole

Services: Full range of psychotherapeutic and medical services are provide, including hormone therapy and surgery. Counseling and/or referrals around legal issues, speech therapy and cosmetic concerns is also available.

*** The following members of the Society for the Second Self (heterosexual cross-dressers) are interested in forming chapters in the Mid-west South-Central area:

Cincinnati OH Cathy OH 1561 R
Indianapolis IN Laura IN 1203 W
Madison WI Mary WI 1490 Z
Kansas City MO 1269 D
Wichita KS Layla KS 1659 J
Dallas/Ft Worth TX Samantha TX 1435 W
Houston TX Oweena TX 1612 S

Write: c/o Carol Beecroft, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

*** The following members of the Gateway Gender Alliance (Open, Non-Sexual) are interested in forming chapters in the Mid-West and South-Central area:

Dayton, OH Marilyn, (513) 435-6675
Write: c/o GGA, Box 484 Lake Park Ave., Suite 427, Oakland, CA 94610

Intermountain, Southwest

GENDER IDENTITY CENTER OF COLORADO, INC. 3715 32nd Ave, Denver, CO. 80211 (303) 458-5378
Nature: G.I.C. is a non-profit, tax exempt, educational and affiliative organization designed to provide a public service to the community.
Services: G.I.C. provides information and education on the issues of cross-dressing and gender conflict through a library of books and journal articles, rap sessions, workshops and seminars, and guest speakers from various areas of the community including medical, legal, insurance, personal grooming, male and female appearance and behaviors, etc. G.I.C. also provides a Speaker's Bureau, and a 24 hour Hot-Line.

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC: 3715 W. 32nd Ave., Box 11563, Denver, CO 80211, 1-202-458-5378, Tomye Kelley, M.A. Psychotherapist
Nature: Private practice limited to work with crossdresser and gender conflicted and their significant others.

GENDER IDENTITY COMMITTEE Department of Psychiatry, University of Utah, College of Medicine, 50 North Medical Dr., Salt Lake City, UT 84132 (801) 581-7951 Dr. Nyla J. Cole, MD
Services: Details not available at this time.

SPECTRUM: P.O. Box 14671, Phoenix, AZ 85063
Nature: Open membership, non-sexual

ALPHA ZETA (Arizona) CHAPTER TRI-ESS c/o Carol Beecroft, Box 194, Tulare, CA 92375
Nature: See 'Society for the Second Self'

TRANSITION CLUB, c/o TC Onekea, Box 42454, Las Vegas, NV 89116 731-5814 (ask for 'TC')
Nature: Private club for transsapiens who are transvestite, pre-op transsexual, & cross-dressers.
Services: Gatherings held at a private unpublished location. Friendship, companionship, recreation, business, traves, etc. etc. etc.....
Security: High regards for discretion.

*** The following member of the Society for the Second Self (heterosexual cross-dressers only) is interested in forming a chapter in the Intermountain area:

Pocatello ID Lisa ID 1144 A
Write: Carol Beecroft, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

California

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION TRANSSEXUAL RIGHTS COMMITTEE (ACLU-TRC) ACLU-TRC, 31815 Camino Capistrano, Suite L, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 (714)661-7332
Nature: Founded in May, 1980. Actively working to firmly establish your civil and human rights as a citizen.

RENAISSANCE GENDER IDENTITY SERVICES Box 11341, Santa Ana CA 92711 714-836-1803
Nature: Renaissance is a referral, information, educational and support service for crossdressers, transsexual persons, and other lifestyle groups.
Services: 'Renaissance Update' (a quarterly newsletter), research library, educational services, lecture bureau, professional and peer counseling services, and a hotline and referral service with local and nationwide referrals.
Security: Membership is open to all sincere, interested persons.

NEUTRAL CORNER c/o W. Thomas, Box 99732, San Diego, CA 92109
Nature: See 'Gateway Gender Alliance'

SAN DIEGO/OCEANSIDE CHAPTER (SHANGRI-LA): c/o Nancy Watson, Box 18202, Irvine, CA 92713
Nature: See 'Shangri-La Club'

CROSSDRESSER HETEROSEXUAL INTERSOCIAL CLUB (CHIC) CHIC, Box 562, Duarte CA 91010 213-456-6511
Nature: CHIC is for heterosexual transvestites or crossdressers only, wives, professional people (MDs, psychologists, teachers, etc.), and friends. We are a local Southern California organization. We offer support and friendship, and stress security and good manners.
Services: CHIC sponsors meetings, parties, monthy dinners, and seminars on make-up, wigs, clothes, etc. CHIC publishes a monthly newsletter (CHIC Clippings), and sponsors educational programs for the public.
Security: CHIC meetings are closed - members only and approved guests. All guests must be screened and approved by two Board members as well as the hostess if a home meeting. Prospective members must apply with a written application, be interviewed by two members of the membership committee and then approved by the Board of Directors. CHIC emphasizes strict security for all its members and guests.

NATIONAL GENDER PROJECT Box 126, Northridge, CA 91328 Dr. Richard F. Docter, Dir.
Nature: Research in the TV-TS phenomena

ALPHA CHAPTER (LOS ANGELES, TRI-ESS): c/o Carol Beecroft, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275
Nature: See 'Society For The Second Self'

SCYROS CHAPTER (LOS ANGELES, SHANGRI-LA): c/o Nancy Watson, Box 18202, Irvine, CA 92713
Nature: See 'Shangri-La Club'

SCYROS CHAPTER (LOS ANGELES, SHANGRI-LA): c/o Nancy Watson, Box 18202, Irvine, CA 92713
Nature: See 'Shangri-La Club'

SOCIETY FOR THE SECOND SELF Carol Beecroft, Box 194, Tulare CA 93275
Nature: Tri Ess is a non-profit organization exclusively for heterosexual crossdressers.
Services: Tri Ess provides a correspondence directory, of commercial services, a magazine (The Femme Mirror), and chapters throughout the U.S.
Security: Membership in Tri Ess is open to heterosexual TVs only. Membership and attendance at a local chapter meeting requires an interview with the chapter president or older member to insure they are heterosexual and will comply with the Tri Ess code of conduct.

SHANGRI-LA CLUB Nancy Watson, Box 18202, Irvine CA 92713
Nature: Shangri-La is a non-profit social organization for crossdressers. Shangri La places emphasis on friendship and security.
Services: Shangri-La provides a bi-monthly newsletter (Le Femme), membership directory, identification card, free mail forwarding, reduced rate invitation to regional events, a commercial services directory, and a manual on how to form local chapters. Shangri La sponsors two major events, the 5-day Spring Shangri La (Biloxi), and June Shangri La (Southern California). Shangri-La has local chapters throughout the U.S.
Security: Prospective members are interviewed by Nancy Watson or officers of the local chapters.

ERICKSON EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION: 8221 W. Sunset Blvd, #73, Hollywood, CA 90046-2484
Nature: EEF is primarily an information resource, and publishes the 'EEF Newsletter'. Additional information is not available at this time.

JANUS INFORMATION FACILITY 1952 Union St., San Francisco, CA 94088
JANUS provides a general basic information package in printed form for the transsexual. A $25.00 donation is requested.

SOCIETY OF JANUS - SACRAMENTO GROUP: c/o Box 6794, San Francisco, CA 94101
Nature: For persons interested in B&D

TS COUNSELING, 1550 California St., Suite 6201, San Francisco, CA 94109 (415) 387-6767 Alise Martinez, R.N., B.A. Director
Nature: TS Counseling is an organization operated by post-op transsexuals, who, as members of the health care profession offer peer counseling to end-stage, pre-op transsexuals - i.e., those persons approaching conversion surgery - and post-op transsexuals who may be having difficulty adjusting to their post-op situation.
Services: Peer counseling for TSs. Educational services to the public in general. Research into the field of transsexualism. Referrals to medical and psychiatric personnel.

GATEWAY GENDER ALLIANCE 484 Lake Park Ave., suite 427, Oakland, CA 94610 (415) 763-6185
Nature: GGA is a non-profit non-sexual organization for the male-to-female and female-to-male crossdresser and transsexual, and supportive friends. GGA has chapters in several areas of the U.S. and Canada, but does not require that members of a local chapter be members of the national organization. Membership must be open to all crossdressers and transsexuals, both male-to-female and female-to-male, regardless of their sexual preferences, practices or orientation.
Services: GGA provides a correspondence directory, identification card, a monthly magazine (The Phoenix), peer counseling, a hot line, and chapters throughout the U.S. and Canada.
Security: Security is the responsibility of the local chapters. Usually the requirement is a meeting with the chapter president prior to coming to a meeting to ensure understanding of GGA objectives and code of conduct.

SAN JOSE CHAPTER (GGA): c/o Box 62283, Sunnyvale, CA 94088 (408) 734-3773 (after 6 PST)
Nature: See 'Gateway Gender Alliance'.

EDUCATIONAL TV CHANNEL (ETVC): ETVC, Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101
Nature: ETVC is a delightful group of TVs, TSs, TGs, Significant Others, and friends. It is intenede as a social and educational group, to meet and have a good time as well as help educate the public. ETVC is non-sexual, and has an open membership policy with approximately 165 members.
Services: ETVC publishes a bi-monthly newsletter ('The ETVC Newsletter'), provides a program of social and educational activities, and referrals.
Security: The mailing and membership lists are confidential. Only the officers are permitted access to either list, except in response to judicial process. No member shall reveal the true name, address, telephone number or profession of another member to anyone, except with the other member's express permission.

SACRAMENTO CHAPTER (GGA): c/o Bonnie Goodwin, Box 38918, Sacramento, CA 95838
Nature: See 'Gateway Gender Alliance'

FEMALE TO MALE TRANSSEXUAL GROUP: The Billy DeFrank Community Center, 86 Keyes St., San Jose, CA (408) 293-4525, or, Hal, (408) 293-2429
Nature: Female to Male transsexual support.

HARRY BENJAMIN INTERNATIONAL GENDER DYSPHORIA ASSOCIATION (HBIGDA), 900 Welch Road #402, Stanford, CA 94304

THE PACIFIC CENTER FOR HUMAN GROWTH, P.O. Box 908, Berkeley, CA 94701 (415) 548-8283 Allanya Guenther, Executive Director

Nature: The Pacific Center is a private, non-profit agency funded by United Way, county revenue sharing funds, sliding scale fees, and contributions. The Center is dedicated to providing high-quality services to sexual minority people of all races, ages, and backgrounds.

Services: Educational services and outreach into the community at large. Speaker's Bureau. Counseling. Group meetings. Hot line (415) 841-6224.

THE PACIFIC CENTER FOR HUMAN GROWTH, P.O. Box 908, Berkeley, CA 94701 (415) 548-8283 Allanya Guenther, Executive Director

Nature: The Pacific Center is a private, non-profit agency funded by United Way, county revenue sharing funds, sliding scale fees, and contributions. The Center is dedicated to providing high-quality services to sexual minority people of all races, ages, and backgrounds.

Services: Educational services and outreach into the community at large. Speaker's Bureau. Counseling. Group meetings. Hot line (415) 841-6224.

*** The following members of the Society for the Second Self (heterosexual cross-dressers only) are interested in forming chapters in California:

San Diego CA Susan CA 1035 T
San Francisco CA Jennifer CA 1543 J
Sacramento CA Chrysis CA 1064 R

Northwest

NORTHWEST CHAPTER (GGA) Box 4928, Portland OR 97208

Nature: See 'Gateway Gender Alliance'.

Services: The Northwest Chapter has at least one function each month. The days vary in order to allow all of our girls to attend as often as is possible. We also publish a monthly newsletter.

Security: Private interview with the chapter president.

EMERALD CITY Box 31318, Seattle, WA 98103 Janice Van Cleve, Secretary

Nature: The Emerald City is a non-profit non-sexual organization providing social and educational services for the transvestite community of Seattle and the Northwest. Promotes positive public image in the media, in the professions, and in the business community. Provides assistance and opportunities for public presentation as well as pleasant private parties and good friendships. Independent organization but works closely with Ingersoll Gender Center and the Seattle Counseling Service.

Services: At least one function each month with updated listing of acceptable vendors and contacts to a wide variety of products and services. Monthly newsletter and educational services.

Security: Must be sponsored by an active, participating member or attend the TV/TS Support Group at the Seattle Counseling Service, and be accepted by an officer of the Emerald City. Mailing lists are strictly confidential.

THE INGERSOLL GENDER CENTER 4604 Stone Way N., Seattle, WA 98103 (206) 328-3546

Nature: A non-profit organization servint the transsexual/transvestite community.

Services: Individual and group counseling, professional consultation to service providers, referrals, research, and public information presentation. Works closely with the Seattle Counseling Service.

NORTH AMERICAN TRANSVESTITE-TRANSSEXUAL TELEPHONE CONTACT SERVICE 801 E. Harrison St, Suite 706, Seattle, WA 98102 (206)624-8266 Executive Director Philip Salem

Nature: Then NA TV-TS Contact Service's primary function is to act as a direct dating service for TVs, TSs and admirers. The Service has over 6200 contacts nationwide.

Services: The Contact Service provides a 24 hour hotline for TVs, TSs and admirers throughout the country. It also provides information gratis on plastic surgery, electrolysis, and hormone therapy.

SEATTLE COUNSELLING SERVICE 1505 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98122 (206) 329-8707

Services: Counseling service for sexual minorities, weekly support group for TVs and TSs.

SALMACIS, The Equalitarian Feminist Social Society, PO Box 1604, Eugene, OR, 97440-1604 Sally Ann Douglas, Social Director, Leslie-Shawn Witham, Hypnotherapist 503-688-4282 (Sally Ann, 6 - 11 p.m. PST)

Nature: Salmacis is a social and service society devoted to the concept of equalitarian feminism; supporting all those who desire to become women, or are women.

Services: Direct telephone counselling, contact with others who have similar interests, contact with our central organization, contact with other organizations, personal growth workshops. Also, publishes "Femmes Together", and "the Equalitarian Feminist."

SALISHON, The Womyn's Information Network PO Box 1604, Eugene, OR 97440-1604 Leslie-Shawn Witham, Director

Nature: Salishon is a service and information network for womyn who perceive themselves living an alternative lifestyle.

Services: The only femininity clinic for males and she-males that is run by a staff of professional women.

SEXUAL IDENTITY CENTER 2139 Kuhio Ave, Honolulu, HI 96813 (808) 926-1000

Services: Therapists, referrals, special support group for TVs and TSs.

*** The following member of the Society for the Second Self (heterosexual cross-dressers only) is interested in forming a chapter in the Northwest:

Portland OR Patricia OR 1387 P

Write: Carol Beecroft, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

*** The following individual is starting a chapter of the Gateway Gender Alliance for people in the Greater Los Angeles area: write: Lydia, 13837 Ventura Blvd, suite 2, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

Canada

TRANSVESTITES AU MONTREAL (TAM) Box 1164 Station H, Montreal Que Can H3G-2N1 514-352-7481

Nature: TAMS is a non-profit non-sexual social organizations with an open membership policy.

Services: TAMS publishes a newsletter (The Garter Press), and has frequent social get-togethers.

Security: No particular requirements stated, but participants are expected to protect the security of all.

QUEBEC TRANSSEXUALS AID, INC. (A.T.Q. INC.): Viviane Belanger, C.P. 691, Mont-Royal, Quebec, Canada H3P 3G4

Nature: French speaking transsexual support.

Services: Meetings, medical referrals, etc.

METAMORPHOSIS MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION Box 5963, Station 'A', Toronto, Ontario Canada M5W-1P4

Nature: Metamorphosis serves the Female to Male transsexual (gender dysphoric male).

Services: To provide research and information relevant to the 1F-M TS, to raise funds for research, to counsel the F-M TS, to educate the professional, para-professional and lay public on gender and sexual dysphoria, to provide peer support, and work cooperatively with other clinics and support groups.

FEDERATION OF AMERICAN AND CANADIAN TRANSSEXUALS (FACT) Box 291, Station 'A', Hamilton Ontario Canada L8N-3C8 416-529-7884

Nature: FACT is a non-profit support organization for transsexuals, relatives and friends of transsexuals, professionals and para-professionals working in th field of gender dysphoria and others prepared to support the aims of the Foundation.

Services: Information distribution concerning transsexualism. Publishes 'Gender Review', a periodical news sheet. Offers peer support and peer counselling. Organizes support groups across Canada wherever these are feasible and has area representataives wherever possible. Provides speakers on transsexualism to the mass media and others. FACT Toronto meets each month on the evening of the second Friday at 519 Church St. Community Centre. Visitors welcome. Enquire to head office for other meetings. Chapters include:

South Central Ontario, c/o Miss Robin Marie Schwartzentruber, P.O. Box 1842, Station 'C', Kitchener, Ontario, N3G-4R3 576-5248

Eastern Ontario, Ottawa Valley, c/o Miss Nicole Boivin, P.O. Box 523, Gatineau, Quebec, J8P-7A1

Niagara Peninsula, c/o Miss Susan Huxford, P.O. Box 291 Station 'A', Hamilton, Ontario, L8N-3C8 529-7884

Montreal & Quebec Province, c/o Ms Patricia G.S. Fisher, C.P. 293, Succ. Cote Des Neiges, Montreal, Quebec, H3S 2S6

FACT Toronto, c/o 519 Church St. Community Centre, 519 Church St., Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2C9

Toronto Chapter, (Members Only) Frankie Andresen, Secretary, PO Box97, Lefroy, Ontario L0L 1W0

Atlantic Region U.S.A., Ms Rachia Heyelman, PO Box 25, South Orleans, MA 02662

Pacific Region U.S.A., TS Counseling, 1550 California St., Suite 6201, San Francisco, CA 94109

Western New York Region, Miss Robyn Bates, PO Box 314, Buffalo, NY 14223

Security: No screening for members or subscribers to 'Gender Review'. Meetings of FACT Toronto meets each month on the evening of the second Friday at the '519 Community Centre'. Local groups establish their own security procedures, e.g. FACT Niagara meetings are by invitation only.

GENDERSERVE Box 291, Station 'A', Hamilton Ontario Canada L8N-3C8 416-529-7884

Nature: Counselling education and research services, registered in Ontario as a proprietorship and operating as a non-profit organization serving TSs TVs and gender dysphoric people in general, homosexuals, wives, friends and relatives. Services for a nominal fee (to cover expenses). Enquiries by mail or phone. No collect calls. The proprietor has screened a number of professional organizations in the USA.

Services: Counselling in sexual matters for individuals and couples. Pastoral counselling if requested. Referrals. Initial counselling session (mail or telephone) free of charge. Lectures, radio/TV and other mass media interviews by arrangement. Group counselling and therapy by request. Publishes booklets and papers of a professional counselling nature (reviewed in SIECUS Report). Public education by articles, etc. for press release. Role-playing and simulation exercises.

ALBERTA TV AND TS CONTACT CLUB: P.O. Box 4667 Stn. C, Calgary, AL T2T 5P1, Canada, Pres. Danielle Smith

Nature: Contact Club is a non-profit organization incorporated in Alberta for

transvestites, transsexuals and their admirers.

Services: The Club provides monthly get-togethers, a newsletter, information, support, counselling, and contacts.

Security: Each member is expected to be tolerant of other members of the club regardless of personal sexual preferences, or limits a member places on the contacts wished. Each member respects other members of the Club, and does not entice another member into surupassing limits that a member has set for himself.

*** The following members of the Society for the Second Self (heterosexual cross-dressers only) are interested in forming chapters in Canada:

Calgary CAN Dee FCAB 1703 B
Edmonton CAN Maureen FCAB 1584 F
Vancouver CAN Julia FCBC 1584 F

Foreign

BEAUMONT SOCIETY Box 3084, London WC1N-3XX England

Nature: Beaumont is a non-profit non-sexual organization for heterosexual transvestites throughout Great Britain.

Services: Beaumont sponsors evening and weekend functions, provides counseling for TVs with problems, and a contact system for members. Beaumont also publishes two bi-monthly magazines, "The Beaumont Bulletin" which contains editorial notices, personal ads, a shopping guide, regional news, etc., and "Beaumag" which contains fictional, biographical or autobiographical stories. Beaumont also provides a library, legal advice, and a liaison and referral to other organizations. Beaumont has a network of organizations throughout Great Britain, and affiliations world-wide.

Security: Private interview with a qualified member.

TV/TS GROUP: Yvonne Sinclair, The TV/TS Group, 274 Upper Street, Islington, London England N.1 01-359-4868 (8-10 p.m. Fri., Sat. & Sun.)

Nature: Open membership, non-sexual. Additional information not available at this time.

Services: Social activities, publishes 'The Glad Rag'.

SELF HELP ASSOCIATION FOR TRANSSEXUALS (SHAFT): 46 Liddell Way, South Ascot, Berkshire, England SL5 9UX

Nature: Details are unavailable at this time.

FRIENDS MERSEYSIDE 14 Colquitt St., Liverpool, England L1 4DE 051-708-0234

Nature: See 'Beaumont Society'

SCOTTISH TV/TS GROUP c/o SHRG 58a Broughton St., Edinburgh EH1 35A Scotland (031) 556-4049

TRANS-CCL Rev. Joseph Douce, Centre du Christ Liberateur, Minorites Sexuelles, TRAS-CCL, 3 Bis, rue Clairaut, 75017 Paris - France Tel.(1) 226.70.48 (Rev. Douce speaks English)

Nature: TRANS-CCL is a non-profit social organization for sexual minorities, non-political, with Christian foundation, but also open to people with other convictions. We have a large section for transsexuals and transvestite, probably the largest one in Europe (about 500 contacts). We can provide legal, medical, psychological, pastoral and surgical helf for transsexuals. We organize meetings, meals, etc... We have a large documentation on transsexuality. We can also provide all information available in Europe.

Services: A telephone help-line Mondays from 8p.m. to 10p.m. at (1) 627-4936. Meetings. Meals. Legal, medical, psychological and pastoral literature, and advisors.

FEMME TRAVESTIE 8023 Zurich, Switzerland Postfach 6788

Nature: Very active social group in Switzerland. Other details are unavailable at this time.

F.P.E. NORTHERN EUROPE: M.A. Postboks 192 DK2600, Glostrup, Denmark (Do not put F.P.E. on envelope)

Nature: See 'Beaumont Society'

ASSOCIATION BEAUMONT CONTINENTALE: Gaby Linsig, 2 Rue des Charpentiers, 68270 Wittenheim, France

Nature: See 'Beaumont Society'

ELIZABETH CLUB Ant Trading Co., Sakata Building, 1-12 Iwamoto-cho Kanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101, Japan

Nature: The Elizabeth Club was established in 1979 for transsexuals, androgynes, and transgenderists. We are located in major centers such as Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya.

Services: We offer storage facilities for our members. We also have consultants available for helping members with make-up and dressing. There is a rental service of clothing, wigs, etc. for members. The Elizabeth Club also publishes a magazine called "Queen" every other month. The magazine serves as a source of information to members on activities and events in Japan.

THE SEAHORSE CLUB OF AUSTRALIA Box R341, Royal Exchange, Sydney, 2000, Australia

Nature: Seahorse Club is a non-profit social organization for transvestites and families. Membership of approximately 150, welcomes new members, overseas visitors and offers support to those of us unable to emerge by means of affiliate membership.

Affiliated with the Beaumont Society of England.

services: Seahorse distributes information on shopping, coming events, being femme bymeans of a monthly newsletter to members and publishes the magazine "Feminique" on a regular basis. Meetings are held in sydney on the last Friday of each month (except December, when the meeting is the 2nd or 3rd Friday). Meetings provide friendship, beauty assistance, etc.

Security: Seahorse places strong emphasis on security for all members and requires screening of prospective members before attending meetings. However, no screening is required of affiliate members (who are not advised of the meeting places) unless they wish to become full members. Overseas members require screening in the same way and overseas visitors need to be either screened or have necessary accreditation from a similar organization (e.g. Beaumont Society, Tiffany's).

SEAHORSE VICTORIA: c/o GPO Box 2337V, Melbourne, VICTORIA, 3001 Australia

Nature: See 'Seahorse Club'. The longest running TV organization in Australia.

PERSONAL LISTINGS

How to respond to a Personal Listing:

1.) If the address is given, write directly to that address.

2.) If the address is Name & Membership #, follow these directions exactly:

A.) Place your letter in a stamped envelope. (No unstamped mail will be forwarded).

B.) Pencil in the name and membership # of the person to whom the letter is meant. (i.e.'Merissa Lynn NH-0001). We need to be able to erase the identifying name and replace it with the forwarding name. Therefore, no letter with the identifying name in ink will be forwarded).

C.) Place that letter inside another envelope and mail to

"Tiffany Club,"
P.O. Box 19
Wayland, MA 01778.

MERISSA SHERRILL LYNN (NH)

Executive secretary Tiffany Club, Managing Director Tapestry

SWM TV, 42, 6', 200, BA philosophy, athletically oriented (pro skier 8 years), ACBL (bridge) life master. A caring person, sincerely interested in the well-being of others.

Interests: Singing, bridge, skiing, the wilderness, the flowers, and listening to the birds sing. Also interested in philosophy.

"I'm sorry but I cannot respond to personal correspondence. However, I'm very interested in hearing from people who would like to become 'leaders', and are willing to put out some effort on behalf of the TV/TS Community. So, if you are a leader-type person and willing to put out some effort to help others, write to me, or better, give me a call."

Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Box 19, Wayland MA 01778 (617)358-5575

MARIETTE ALLEN (NYC) 12/84

Female. Photographer for Fantasia Fair '81-'84, and Tiffany's Spring Weekend '83-'84.

"I consider myself a friend of the paraculture. I am interested in making changes in society to reduce pain caused by 'gender dysphoria'."

"I am available for portrait photography at my studio in NYC, or in setting around the city. I am looking for crossdressers whom I could photograph at home with wife and children, anywhere in New England and Mid-Atlantic area."

M.P. Allen, 211 C.P.W., NYC, NY 10024

LORI S. (IN) 12/84

TV, 41, 6'1", 175. Average looking, clean, discreet, very broadminded.

Interested in any and all TV activities.

"I am interested in meeting, rather than prolonged writing. I also prefer correspondence that is within a 100 mile radius of South-Central Indiana."

Lori S. (IN-641)

SUSAN C. (MA) 1/85

SWM TV, 32.

Interests: Music, film, theater, books.

"I'm hoping to meet intelligent, open-minded, and imaginative friends."

Susan C. (MA-0332)

SANDRA B. (NE MA) 12/84

46, 5'9", 155. Brown Hair, hazel eyes.

Interests: Crossdressing, learning to be more feminine.

"I'm just coming out of the closet and would like to correspond with other TVs."

Sandra B. (MA-0646)

LORA W. (Phila. PA) 1/85

Member: Tri-Ess Chi Delta Mu

MWM, 70, 6'1", 195. hetero. Enjoys model building, crewel & needlepoint.

"Will correspond with those who are sincere, have a nice wardrobe, and enjoy dressing."

Lora W. (PA-0414)

Dee Dee W. (CT-0002)

DEE DEE W (Hartford CT) 3/85

I'd like the girls at Tiffany
Who like to write,
To write to me.
A photograph, a kindly note
Will make me say,
"I'm glad she wrote."
Dee Dee W (CT-0002)

PAMELA DEA (WA) 1/85

5'11", 38, blue eyes. Friendly & gently, good sense of humor, has humanist philosophy.

Interests: Poetry, drama, all the fine arts, chess, and all things feminine.

"I'm looking for friends, female or male, TV, TS, etc., to help in feminization."

Pamela Dea, PO Box 1801, Yakima, WA 98907

WINNIE BRANT (N. NY) 2/85

Member: Tri-Ess, Eon

Participant: Fantasia Fair (all of them), DREAM, Tiffany's P-town Outing

Awards: Miss Fantasia Fair

Hetero TV, 52, 6'2", a lady. Has many interests, scientific and culturally oriented. Loves to travel.

Mr W. Brant, Box 741, Schenectady, NY 12301

BARBARA JANE A. (MN) 1/85

Member: GGA

DWM closet cross-dresser (60% TS, 40% TV)

Interests: Boys who would rather be girls.

"I would like to make new friends, especially in the Twin Cities area."

Barbara Jane A (MN-0655)

JENNIFER PETERS (MA) 12/84

Member: Tiffany General Member

27, 5'9", 150. Easy going, lifelong interest in TVism.

Interests: Travel, music, clothes shopping, anything dealing with TVism.

"I hope to meet other persons anywhere who enjoy the experiences of a male transformed into a pretty woman."

Jennifer Peters, c/o Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778

Shiela Kirk (PA-0336)

SHIELA KIRK (W. PA) 2/85

Member: Tiffany Club, Trans-Pitt, Paradise Club

Attractive TV, dedicated to this wonderful joy of dressing.

"I love music and literature - I work very hard so moments of relaxation and pleasure of this sort are precious to me. I love being a TV, and I'm anxious to meet many others who delight in the same feelings." Shiela K (PA-0336)

ANDREA BUTLER (E. MA) 1/85

Participant: Tiffany's P-town Outing

Pre-op TS, mid 20's, 5'11", 140

Enjoys high fashion, new wave music, movies, & anything avant guarde.

"I seek to meet open minded people who share similar interests. I especially would like to befriend passable TVs & TSs in the Boston area. All letters answered, only sincere people need reply."

Andrea Butler, Box 550, 89 Mass. Ave, Boston, MA 02115

Donna Marie H. (NY-0670)

DONNA MARIE H. (W. NY) 2/85

Member: Tri-Ess, Eon

MWM hetero TV, 43, 5'7", 160, brown hair, blue eyes. Married to a very supportive wife, father of 4 children.

Interests: Perfecting femme image, heels, lingerie, make-up, all things feminine. Also, camping, model building, custom painting, cars & vans.

I am interested in working to develop our group 'Eon' and working with those just coming out, and novices. Would like to work with couples and presenting hetero X-dressing to families & children."

Donna Marie H. (NY-0670)

Kay Gould (CA-0323)

KAY GOULD (CA) 3/85
Member: GGA

Very feminine and totally passable. Enjoys all aspects of feminine life style. Strong personality with ultra femme tastes.

Interests: Fine music, dining, theatre, and high fashion.

"I Date extensively, and travel heavily throughout the US. I appreciate male escorts in most cities. Am very accomplished in all feminine ways but demanding in personality. I also write for several national publications."

Kay Gould, Box 255, Sacramento, CA 95802

BELLE D. (MA) 2/85

Artist, mid-fifties. Does not "pass", but integrates feminine ways into life. Would identify with isolation feelings. Appreciates candidness and honesty.

Interests: The arts, painting, sculpture, photography, writing, theatre, travel.

"I Would be willing to correspond with totally honest, candid persons."

Belle D. (MA-0237)

JANICE BROWN (NH) 3/85
Member: Tiffany Club

WM TV, 5'10", 165, hazel eyes. Basically shy, quiet, courteous, and considerate of other people.

Interests: Art, photography, music, outdoors.

"I would like to correspond with other TVs across the country, and exchange photos, thoughts on dressing and make-up, and share experiences."

Janice Brown, c/o Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778

Donna Wallace (NH-0515)

DONNA WALLACE (NH) 2/85
Tiffany General Member

6'2, MWM TV, 38, brown hair, blue eyes, light complexion. "I'm interested in improving my female transformation through fashion, make-up & mannerisms. I enjoy all sports, music, and motorcycles. I'm just coming out, and seek discreet contacts only. Will respond to all letters A.S.A.P."

Donna Wallace, c/o Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778

JENNIFER B. (E. MA) 4/85
Member: Tiffany Club

MWM, 36, 5'10", 145, rock musician, conceptual artist, someone who enjoys mellow friendly people. Also a P-T student, and amateur philosopher.

Jennifer B. (MA-0695), c/o Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778

Andi K. (CA-0656)

ANDI K. (N. CA) 1/85
Member: Tri Ess, ETVC, GGA
Awards: Miss ETVC '84
Hetero, 36, 5'7".

"I am interested in meeting other TVs in the San Francisco Bay area for outings and mutual assistance. I will attempt to answer all correspondence."

Andi K. (CA-0656)

CARL L. ECKARDT (OH) 3/85
Member: The Network, Metamorphosis Medical Research Foundation, Transsexual Voice

Married F-M TS, 39, 5'6", 200 (but losing), brown hair, hazel eyes, disabled.

Interests: Sports, reading, fishing, likes animals.

"I am a F to M TS waiting for final surgery. If any other TS wants to write, I will try to return all letters. Any F to M, or anyone else, having any information on final surgery, I would be interested in hearing from them."

Carl L. Eckardt, 1269 Primrose Place, Columbus, OH 43212

Evelyn Kramer (OH-0713)

Eve B. (IL-0523)

EVELYN J. KRAMER (OH) 4/85
Member: Paradise Club, Trans-Pitt, Crossroads

Participant: Be All You Can Be W/E

WM, mid-50's, 145, 5'8", fair complexion

Interests: Model railroading, modeling, outdoor activities, writing 'Evelyn's Cris Cross' column in 'Paradise Tales'

"I would like to help others & myself to be a better TV/TS, and to make new friends, to share my life with others as a woman, and to be involved with other clubs & groups."

Evelyn J. Kramer, 5212 Duke Ave-Up, Cleveland, OH 44102

PAM VAN BUREN (Northern NY) 4/85
Participant: Fantasia Fair '81, '82, '83, '84

Awards: 'Miss Femininity '84'

TV, 32, 5'8", 130, brown hair, blue eyes, quiet, caring and good humored.

Enjoys skiing, sailing, making clothes, playing music, and being a woman as often as possible. Passes well and enjoys going out dressed.

"I'm interested in meeting and corresponding with people throughout the country, and especially in the Eastern New York - Western Massachusetts area."

Pam Van Buren (NY-0253)

SUSAN A. (MA) 3/85
Participant: Fantasia Fair

MWM TV, 5'7", 145, Long-time TV who is considered attractive and passable. Loves collecting and wearing feminine clothing, especially lingerie. Would like to meet others with similar interests.

Susan A. (MA-0064)

JANE MURPHY (W. NY) 4/85
Member: Butterfly

SWM TV, 22, 6'1", 38-32-40, big blue eyes.

Interests: Camping, basketball, softball, cooking, classical music, writing satire.

"I have been a TV since about age 4. It has been only recently that I have felt comfortable leaving the confines of my apt as my other half."

Jane M. (NY-0692)

LORI K. (OH) 4/85
Member: Tri-Ess

MWM, 32, 2 yr associate degree, wife somewhat supportive.

Interests: Reading, cooking, vegetable gardening.

"I have been on hormones 2 yrs, passable on occasion. My weak points: makeup & hair styling. Need help in these areas. Seeking more opportunities to go out in public "en femme". Will correspond with others."

Lori K (OH-0712)

EVE B. (CHICAGO, IL) 3/85
Member: Tri-Ess Chi Chapter, Outreach Institute

Participant: DREAM 77-79, Chi Chapter Holland WE, Fantasia Fair 82-84

Eve is elegant, fun-loving girl who "exists" 3 to 4 days a week. Enjoys shopping, dining out and traveling the mid-west and west. Also, frequently participates in pane discussions and lectures at colleges and professional organizations. Eve also plays golf and tennis.

Eve B. (IL-0523)

SUZIE M. (NJ) 3/85

Tall sexy W TV, 43, average weight, light hair.

Interested in meeting with other TVs in New Jersey area for mutual enjoyment. Photo, phone please. All answered.

Suzie M. (NJ-0686)

MICHELE KINNEY (C. MA) 4/85

Pre-op TS, 5'9", 130, brown hair, blue eyes, artist, intellectual, non-religious.

Interests: Fine arts, literature, theatre, nature, history, humor and sideways reasoning.

"People both fascinate and amuse me. I occasionally participate in science fiction conventions and the Society for Creative Anachronism."

Michele K. (MA-0705)

KAREN JANE M. (NH) 3/85

DWM hetero TV, 43, 6'1", 168, attractive, retired, intelligent.

Interests: Motorcycling, music, trivial pursuit, cooking, conversation.

"I'm looking for friends and support. Want to improve my image. Limited travel.

Karen Jane M. (NH-0689)

VICTORIA BROWN (KS) 3/85

Member: Tri-Ess

MWM hetero crossdresser, 41 yrs young, 5'10", 185, light brown hair, hazel eyes, medium complexion.

Interests: Studying to be an alcohol & drug counselor, under social work with special emphasis on crossdressing. Also, tropical fish, woodworking, photography, gardening.

"I am working very hard at coming out of the closet. I have accepted my feminine self and am enjoying it very much. I have a very tolerant and accepting wife, who at present acts as my adviser on feminine matters, but does not fully understand crossdressers."

Victoria Brown (KS-0684)

Tracy S. (DC-0650)

TRACY S. (Washington DC) 12/84

WM TV, 5'11", 155, slim, passable, and sexy.

Interests: Travel, companionship, romance, living life to the fullest as a woman.

"I enjoy meeting and corresponding with all TVs, TSs, women and couples. I travel the East and Midwest, and can entertain visitors to Washington."

Tracy S. (DC-0650)

Connie N. (NY-0434)

CONNIE N. (Western NY) 4/85

Member: GGA, Tri Ess, Crossroads Chapter, Paradise Club, Beaumont Society

MWM TV, 5'5", 123. A plain, ordinary, dull hetero-male crossdresser, with a very supportive wife. Likes clean cut, attractive clothes and pretty heels. Loves to correspond and exchange photos and general chit-chat. All letters promptly answered.

C.M. Nichols, Box 0734, Jamestown, NY 14702

JOAN MARIE GREY (S. CA) 4/85

Member: Tri-Ess, GGA, Shangri-La, Outreach Institute

50, 5'11", 180.

Interests: Being a woman, going out to all places while dressed. Also loves music, theatre, books, cooking, and model railroading. President of Alpha Chapter of Tri-Ess.

Joan G (CA-0532)

PAULA A. (NJ) 4/85

MWM closet Tv (approx 35 yrs), 55, 5'9", 170, medium build, conservative in dress and manner. Non-smoker. enjoys carpentry, photography, writing, shopping, and dining fully dressed.

Lee A. (ME-0247)

LEE A. (ME) 4/85

MWM, 5'10", 175, good personality, loves to correspond and/or meet others.

Interests: Jogging, skiing (x-country and downhill), motor cycles, fishing, hunting, indoor sports.

Lee A. (ME-0247)

ROBIN BETH I. (MI) 2/85

Gentle male TV, raised in loving feminine household to enjoy androgyny, dance, and girlishness in dress and manner.

Interests: Fashions of the 20's - 50's, especially children's fashions. "I am interested in exchanging pictures, info & stories on these topics, and also on the problems of raising children today to enjoy femininity, androgyny, and grace. Girls who enjoy a feminine boy are a special interest."

Robin I. (MI-0674)

BILLI D. (MA) 3/85

Hetero TV, 5'11", 190, 32, pleasant looking, able to pass with little trouble.

Interests: War games, military officers, military history, painting (miniatures), crossdressing.

"Am anxious to make friends with other persons like myself."

Billi D., Box 80112, Springfield, MA 01138

TARAE TAIBROOKE (SE MA) 4/85
SM hetero TV, 26, 6'5", 220
Interests: Lingerie, makeup, leather clothing, leotards & tights. Loves boots, clogs & penny loafers. Also enjoys house work, travel, sports, animals, outdoors, walking, & bike rides.
"I would to hear from guys or gals. Are there any bondage fans out there? Would like to trade or share ideas and fantasies."
Tarae Taibrooke, Box 128, Braintree, MA 02184

Carol Jennings (MA-0541)

CAROL JENNINGS (E. MA) 4/85
Participant: Tiffany's P-town Outing
SWM TV, 33, 6', 150, attractive, rock musician/song writer, very outgoing.
enjoys nights on the town, high fashion, especially shoes, good music and a good party.
"Come on out - and let's party!"
Carol J. (MA-0541)

PAT S. (E. PA) 2/85
Member: GGA
5'11", 230, Cau., extrovert & good sense of humor. Interested in reading, Chess, swimming, writing, communications, and exchanging of ideas, customs, etc.
"I am interested in building a foundation of companionship and trust, a friendship of togetherness in mind, body and spirit and expression, blanketed with understanding and appreciation."
Pat S. (PA-0509)

Judy Leigh S. (MA-0123)

JUDY LEIGH S. (N.E. MA) 4/85
Member: Tiffany Club
Married TV, 46, 5'4", pleasant, shy.
"I enjoy all sports & travel & dance music, plus just having a good time with good friends. I like to get dressed & go for rides to visit other friends."
Judy S., c/o Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778

HEATHER DAWN ANDERSON (MA) 1/85
MWM TV, 34, 5'11", 130. Crossdressing since childhood.
Interests: Music (rock to classical), songwriting, cooking, running.
"I want to let my femininity blossom. I'm sensitive and caring. I enjoy long walks on the seashore accompanied by intimate conversation and fun. I need some TV/TS companionship."
Heather A. (MA-0661)

LEISA JEAN C. (OK) 12/84
Member: Tri Ess, GGA
Life long crossdresser, 39.
Interests: Photography, poetry, art and reading.
Leisa C. (OK-0643)

SUE T. (S.E. MA) 3/85
WM, 37, 6'2", 180, brown hair, hazel eyes.
Interests: Boating, fishing, scuba diving, and biking.
"I would like to correspond with members who have the same interests."
Sue T. (MA-0690)

VANESSA S. (FL) 4/85
Member: Tri-Ess
MWM hetero TV, 44, not able to dress frequently.
Interests: Reading, especially mystery fiction. Also, history, and stamp collecting. Especially interested in history of transvestism.
Vanessa S. (FL-699)

WENDI ROBERTSON (S. CA) 4/85
"I want to meet a sister in the So. Calif. area to be a good friend."
Wendi R. (CA-704)

JANICE MARIE M. (N. NJ) 2/85
Member: Chi Delta Mu - Tri Ess
Participant: Fantasia Fair (5X), DREAM (1X)
6', 200, 50's. Electronics engineer, former amateur radio operator, passes well in public.
Interests: Singing ballads (Irish, Scottish, & Country), shopping en femme, dining out en femme.
Janice M. (NJ- 0213)

Robin G. (PA-0781)

ANDREA G. (CT) 4/85
Member: Tri-Ess
MWM TV, 5'11", 160, 46.
Interests: TV fiction & nonfiction, sports, good food.
"I would like to meet or correspond with others, especially in the Connecticut - Western Mass. area."
Andrea G. (CT-0425)

Naomi O. (IL-0257)

Jane Nance (KS-0694)

NAOMI O. (IL) 5/85

Member: Chi chapter Tri-Ess (President), Crossroads, Paradise Club, Outreach Institute

Participant: Fantasia Fair '80-'84, Chi Chapter Holland Weekend, "Be All You Want To Be" Weekend

Awards: 'Miss fantasia Fair '83, 'Miss Congeniality '80 & '81

A Chicago area attorney who loves the better things in life. Is personable and understanding. Enjoys travel, photography, food (still can't stand beets or brussel sprouts), and fashion & jewelry (it's the gypsy in my soul). Active in mid-west cross-dressing activities, and has appeared as a panelist on the David Susskind show.

Naomi O. (IL-0257)

MAEGAN M. TAYLOR (N. NJ) 5/85

MWM, 42, 5'10", 150, shy, sensitive, sincere, somewhat introverted, artist, architect.

Interests: My children (4), gardening, nouvelle cuisine (cooking & eating), philosophy, psychology (particularly R.D. Laing), theology, music, genetic engineering.

"I would like an answer to the question 'Why didn't I do this sooner?'"

Maegan T (NJ-0716)

ALICIA EVANS (ME) 5/85

WM M-F pre-op TS, 31, 6', 150.

Interests: Music (pop/rock writer/performer), outdoors, people, politics, philosophy, computers, psychology, and all feminine things.

"I have many hetero friends who accept me for who I am and encourage me to be all I can be, but I would like to meet other TSs and TVs and become active in the Paraculture. Letters, photo, phone communication also desired. Please write."

Alicia Evans, Box 1056, Westbrook, ME 04092

SUSAN C. HUXFORD (ON CAN) 5/85

Information distribution in Canada

Executive Director FACT, Director GenderServe Counselling, Research and Educational Services

Member: SSSS, HBIGDA, SIECCAN

"Legally a tall female; retired high school teacher. Now involved in lecturing, counselling and writing. Interested in meeting members of the 'paraculture'. Addicted to 'good' music and loves singing. Always busy, but not a busybody."

Susan C. Huxford, c/o Box 291, Station 'A', Hamilton, ON L8N 3C8 CANADA (416) 529-7884

JANE NANCE (KS) 4/85

Member: Tri-Ess, GGA

MWM, mid-50's, 5'7", 135. Supportive wife, masters degree.

Interests: Expressing strong basic feminine feelings in any appropriate situation, i.e., theatre, good movies. Also enjoys classical music.

"I'm committed to my marriage, although my feelings lean toward transsexualism. I'm a private person who has kept most contacts to correspondence only, but I would appreciate the help & sharing received from other cross-dressers, and willing, in turn, to share my struggles, growth & experiences as time permits."

Ms Jane Nance, Box 67088, Topeka, KS 66667

ADRIENNE R. (MD) 5/85

SWM, 33, slender, thrills to the pinch of high heels during a long walk, the gentle bounce of a skirt against nylon-clad knees.

Seeks correspondence, photo exchange, possible meetings with women, TVs in the MD, VA, DC area. Enjoys very feminine fashions--dresses, bows, gloves, heels, makeup, lingerie. Hopes to find friends with similar interests for mutual improvement of our female selves.

Adrienne R. (MD-0721)

JULIE COOK (MA) 4/85
Participant: Tiffany's P-town Outing
SWM, 37, 5'9", 150, brown hair & eyes.
Interests: Camping, movies, and improving my feminine image.
"I would like to meet others with mutual feminine interests."
Julie Cook, P.O. Box 801, Marlboro, MA 01752

Micheline Johnson (CAN-0560)

MICHELINE JOHNSON (ON, CAN) 5/85
Member: Tiffany, FACT/Ottawa
Participant: Fantasia Fair, Tiffany's P-town Outing, Dewhurst's Poconos Outing
A gentle person, attractive, open, honest, sensitive, 40's, interesting company, non-smoker.
Enjoys life, dancing, dining, films, theatre, music, travel, conversation, walks, wild-life, water falls, sunsets, hand holding, hugging, togetherness.
"I'm looking for a romantic affectional asexual loving warm relationship, as a woman, with one special understanding cultured person having similar characteristics with whom to share some of life together."
Micheline Johnson, Box 9155, Ottawa, Canada K1G 3T9

SARAH ANNE D. (FL) 5/85
Life-time TV, 71 (retired), 5'6", 163, light brown hair.
Interests: Flea markets, garage sales, model railroads, travel.
"Will answer all."
Sarah D. (FL-0558)

Rhonda Smith (MA-0317)

ANNE MARIE C. (NS CAN) 5/85
WM bi-TV, 38, 5'11", 180.
"I want to correspond and meet TVs and TSs in Canada, and the Northeast U.S. I travel often to the Northeast part of the U.S. and would like to correspond to share fantasies with other TV sisters and maybe meet in person in the future."
Mike Chaplin, P.O. Box 1446, Halifax North Station, Halifax, NS B3K 5H7 Canada

JERI LEE (N.W. WA) 5/85
SWM hetero closet TV, 28, 6'.
"I care, like to help others. I enjoy many interests, and am willing to share them with others. I would like to meet TVs & TSs and women who are understanding so I can get out of the closet, enjoy the feminine side of me, and hope to make some friends along the way."
Jeri Lee (WA-0725)

JANICE H. (TX) 5/85
MWM, lifelong CD, 5'9", late 50's.
"I so enjoy doing things feminine! Although I have no friends with whom I can share my fascination in person, I am meeting some lovely ladies through correspondence. I am a bit slow to reply sometimes, but I will answer all. Your photo will be enjoyed. My interests include music (classics to jazz), travel, photography, and of course, being me."
Janice H (TX-0567)

RHONDA SMITH (CA & MA) 5/85
Awards: Tiffany 'Most Original'
Single, 5'6", 130. Exotic, into Hollywood scene.
Enjoys disco, 3-D photography, lasers, archery, astronomy, atomics, and philosophy.
"Honey, this girl has strolled down 5th Ave in NY, whistled at on a military base in NM, propositioned in a TV/TS showbar in Hollywood, and spent a lovely evening as the only girl at a Hawaiian luau. shall we find a nice quiet place and talk?"
Rhonda S. (MA-0317)

SHARON KANE (N. NY) 4/85
MWM cross-dresser, 38, 5'8", 150, sensitive and shy.
Enjoys fishing and bowling. Also loves to dress in pretty lingerie and dresses.
"I would like to hear from other TV/TS women and exchange fantasies and ideas about dressing up."
Sharon K (NY-0700)

JANE MURPHY (W. NY) 4/85
Member: Butterfly
SWM TV, 22, 6'1", 38-32-40, big blue eyes.
Interests: Camping, basketball, softball, cooking, classical music, writing satire.
"I have been a TV since about age 4. It has been only recently that I have felt comfortable leaving the confines of my apt as my other half."
Jane M. (NY-0692)

Karen K. (CA-0322)

KAREN K. (CA) 4/85
Member: Tri-Ess, GGA
SWM hetero TV, 42, 5'9", 182. Pleasant personality who enjoys meeting people. Interested in photography, camping, & hiking, running, all sports, good instrumental music, reading, & stamp collecting.
"I enjoy writing and meeting with sisters. I also travel a great deal. I also enjoy going out dressed, but I'm careful."
Karen K. (CA-0322)

CAROL SUE S. (FL) 5/85
Member: GGA
MWM, 50+, slight, passes very well.
Interests: Writing, golf (ladies' tees), clothes, people watching, self-improvement, helping others enjoy their right to dress, do, and be as they please.
"I dress almost all the time and feel "crossdressed" only when I must wear male garments for society's sake. My wife is semi-tolerant, but getting better. Would enjoy hearing from others, especially from central Florida. Will answer all."
Carol Sue S. (FL-0551)

CHRISTINA MARIE MARION (NH) 5/85
Age 32, a rural person, fairly liberal, and an avid amateur naturalist.
wildlife photography, wild food gathering, gardening, hunting, cooking, designing leather flowers.

LINDA L. (N. NY) 5/85
WM, 40, 140, interested in cross-dressing.
"I have no interest in passing, but I would like to meet and/or correspond with those secure enough to pass."
Linda L (NY-0726)

Mary Lou H. (CAN-0440)

MARY LOU H. (AL. CAN) 5/85
Member: Tri-Ess, GGA
Participant: Fantasia Fair, Joyce Dewhurst's Poconos Weekend
SWM hetero TV, 60, 5'8", size 12, professional musician and composer, loves nature, concerts, drama, museums, travelling. Stylish dresser, good fashion taste, has makeup troubles. Will meet fine TVs and understanding girls/ladies. "I need only makeup training."
Mary Lou H. (CAN-0440)

Linda Jensen (CAN-0442)

LINDA JENSEN (ON, CAN) 5/85
Member: Gateway Gender Alliance, Transvestites Au Montreal, Beaumont Society
Hetero MWM TV, mid 30's.
Enjoys sports, cross-dressing, and dancing.
"My job and family responsibilities give me few chances to dress, so when I do, I do it with vigor. I can travel several times a year, and have been in drag in some of the world's great cities (including Boston)."
Linda Jensen, Box 15855 Sta. F, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1C-3S7

FRANCESCA MILLS (NE MA) 5/85
SWM bi-TV, 32
Enjoys the outdoors, science fiction & fantasy, enjoys being around other TVs, and having good times together. Would look forward to some correspondence, and meeting others from the Northeast Mass. area."
Francesca M (MA-0352)

ROYY A. (NJ) 5/85
Member: GGA
Slim, tall, friendly, delicate.
Interested in the outdoors, flowers, old cars, and becoming more feminine.
"I would very much like to meet friends, especially in the tri-state area. Am also seeking pen pals."
Royy A. (NJ-0550)

Tara Tenille (CA-0752)

Patti F. (MN)

TARA TENILLE (N. CA) 6/85

Member: GGA, Society of Janus (Co-ordinator Sacramento Branch), ETVC

Participant: Spring Fling '85

Bi-TV, mid 30's, single, can entertain or travel.

Interests: Photography, music, dancing, travel, learning, corsets, high heels, nights out on the town, adventure, and people who are a little bit crazy.

"I want to travel more and meet new, sincere, serious friends and dates - nationwide and worldwide. I enjoy erotic dress more than formal dress and always love to compare notes with those of like interests. Most of my clothes are custom-made. Will answer all,, but photo and SASE appreciated."

Tara Tenille, Box 13033, Sacramento, CA 95812-3033

CATHERINE ROSEMARY D. (E PA) 6/85

Member: Outreach

SWM hetero crossdresser, 60, 5'9", 190.

"It's unlikely that I would pass, but am interested in the world of the crossdresser, and would like to get acquainted."

Catherine D. (PA-0748)

CHERYL A. MCBRIDE (N. NY) 6/85

Member: GGA

Participant: Fantasia Fair '84

SWM, TS, 34, 5'7", 145. Passable in most situations.

Interests: X-C skiing, camping, cycling, photography, dancing, lively parties, and meeting people.

"I'm interested in forming friendships with both men and women who accept me as a woman. I'm sincerely interested in exploring and developing the female side of my personality."

Cheryl M (NY-0350)

DIANA VEE (MA) 6/85

Member: Tiffany

Married TV with disapproving wife. 5'6", 155, dark hair.

Interests: Dressing completely and potentially being able to pass in public. Into aerobics, and nautilus.

"I am extremely interested in perfecting my female side, while maintaining my everyday male image."

Diana Vee, c/o Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778

PATTI F. (MN) 6/85

Member: GGA, Tri Ess

Participant: Dream '78

38, 5'10", 175, college grad.

Interests: Taking modeling classes, garage sales, attending fashion shows. Also enjoys being a 'French maid'.

"My goal is to meet other TVs and become active in our new TV club in Minneapolis-St Paul area."

Pete Fail, Box 65221, St Paul, MN 55165

ANGELA S. (W. NY) 5/85

Member: Eon

Participant: Joyce Dewhurst's Poconos Outing

MWM, 39, with supportive wife.

Interests: Fly fishing, traveling, motorcycling, EON.

"I'm thoroughly motivated and intellectually stimulated by crossdressing, and living out my fantasies as angela. I'm hoping to lead the rest of my life as a happy person."

Angela S., c/o EON, P.O. Box 6293, Camillus, NY 13031

BETTE J. (N TX) 7/85
Member: Tiffany, GGA, Tri Ess
Participant: Tiffany P-town '85
MWM hetero TV, 5'9", 50, size 18. Can pass. Never met a stranger.
Enjoys parties, and being a girl.
"I've dressed forever, and now I'm out of the closet. I travel extensively, and would like to meet other TV girls. Would especially like to help and advise those who are just starting to come out."
Bette J. (MA-0543)

ABBY MARIE G. (NH) 5/85
MWM, 5'11", 180, brown hair, likes people.
Interests: Model making, fishing, hunting, walking in the woods. Would like to correspond.
Abby G. (NH-0731)

Hillary S. (WI-0751)

HILLARY DU NIC SEAMUS (WI) 6/85
Member: The Network
Participant: 'Be All You Want To Be' W/E
SWM hetero TV, 42, 6'.
Interests: Stamps, silver-age comic books, classical music, Medievalist.
"I'm hoping that in meeting kindred souls the 'true' Hillary will blossom."
Hillary S., c/o James W. Hill, Jr, Box 10450, Milwaukee, WI 53210

Janine Bridget D. (RI-0331)

JANINE BRIDGET D. (RI) -- 7/85
Member: XX Club
Interests: Photography, computers, science fiction.
"I would like to meet any individual who could advance my education in womanhood."
Jan D., c/o Box 562, Coventry, RI 02816

LAURA LEE (SE MA) 5/85
DWM TV, 26, 5'6", 145, brown hair, blue eyes.
Interests: New experiences, romance, walks on the beach, nature.
"I feel alone and would enjoy TV, TS, & women friends to talk to, meet, and dress with. I am new to cross-dressing, and need wardrobe help. I love nylons & heels and the feel of silk. The ideal friend would be a passable TV, TS or woman around my age, to help me explore all aspects of TV life, and possibly date. Will answer all."
Laura L (MA-0729)

ASHLEE O. (SE FL) 6/85
Participant: Fantasia Fair '84, 'Be All You Want To Be' W/E
"I would like to meet other heterosexual crossdressers. I am married, and live in Miami. I do not mind traveling within the state."
Ashlee O. (FL-0750)

LINDA PIERSON (CT) 5/85
Interests: Music, clothes, parties, sports, & travel.
"I want to get the help necessary to become a very passable female. I also want to meet TVs & TSs who can help and be friends."
Linda P. (CT-0734)

Janice H. (MA-0254)

JANICE H. (MA) 4/85
Member: Tri-Ess
Participant: Fantasia Fair (4 times)
DWM hetero TV, 59, 5'6", 150, brown hair and blue eyes. A little on the quiet side, but makes friends easily. Doesn't smoke.
Interests: Eating out in a nice restaurant, loves country music, good movies, and dressing up.
"Will answer all letters."
Janice H. (MA-0254)

JOAN M. BRIDGMAN (ON Can) 6/85
Member: FACT-Toronto
Participant: Tiffany's P-town Outing, GGA's Spring Fling
5'7", 170, 40s, size 16.
Interests: Photography, theatre.
"I'm willing to meet TVs and TSs, and show them my town if and when they are in Toronto."
Joan M. Bridgman, 25 Wood St, A-305, Toronto, ON M47 2P9 Canada

Kelley M. (NY-0718)

Lynn M. (NY-0771)

KELLEY M. (W. NY) 5/85
Member: EON
MWM, 5'9", dark hair, blue eyes, pass in public.
Interests: Lingerie, dressy dresses, skiing, biking, antiques, all fashion that is directly related to our Bridal Shop 'The House of Renee'. We love to travel.
"My wife and I would like to meet couples where the wife is accepting. We enjoy giving cocktail parties at our home, or at other social affairs."
Kelley M., c/o EON, Box 6293, Camillus, NY 13031

KAREN V (Northern NJ) 7/85
Member: Tiffany
SWM hetero TV, 38, 5'8, 155, good personality and sense of humor. Adventouress. "A classical music nut, I also enjoy card & word games, karate (black belt),skiing, and gourmet food. I would like to meet women who share some of these interests and are open minded about the cross dressing scene.
Karen V (NJ-0347)

KAREN A. (SE MA) 7/85
Member: Tiffany
M-F TS, 40, 5'10", 155, passes. College degree.
Interests: Cooking, some sewing, tennis, pro sports, fishing, loves the outdoors.
"I'm interested in meeting other TSs for personal friendships. Would also like to form a peer support group for TSs in SE Mass. area. I am caring, straight forward, honest and sincere."
Karen A. (MA-0763)

BOBBIE K. (CA) 7/85
Member: GGA, Tri Ess
Interests: Cooking, beach-walking, playing guitar (badly), woodworking, auto restoration.
"I would like to contact sisters in the Oxnard-Ventura-Camarillo area to write & get together."
Bobbie K. (CA-0760)

TARA M. (OH) 5/85
Enjoys golf, racquetball, reading.
"Would like to meet other TVs &CDs to help me appreciate my crossdressing."
Tara M (OH-0732)

LYNN M. (W NY) 7/85
Member: EON
MWM TV (former TS), 5'10", 140, 42. Not beautiful but pass easily in public. Married to Wonder Woman.
Interests: Gourmet food (cooking and eating), music, costumes, computers, Cape Ann, femininity.
"I would like to meet interesting people, especially other couples who are relaxed with the TV 'paraculture'. Would also like to help others come to the same level of love and understanding we have found."
Lynn M. (NY-0771)

ROBBIE B. (MI) 7/85
Member: Tri Ess, Crossroads
MWM TV, 50's, Evangelical Christian, non-smoker, non-drinker, does not pass.
Interests: High heels, corsetry, makeup. Desires correspondence with likeminded TVs.
R. Baker, Box 4253, East Lansing, MI 48823

JOAN V. (E. MA) 6/85
Tall bi TV, good looking, loves to dress, and would love to have someone from the Boston MA area to dress with.
Joan V (MA-0152)

Johnnie D. (PA-0448)

Carla Goldsneider (CT-0212)

JOHNNIE D. (W. PA) 6/85

Member: Paradise Club, Trans-Pitt

Participant: Tiffany's P-town Outing, Lee Brewster's P-town Outing, All You Want To Be Weekend, Joyce Dewhurst's Poconos Outing

MWM, 37, 5'5". Passes very well.

Interests: Loves travel, shopping, dressing, theater, music, and dancing.

"I am president of a group in Pittsburgh. Any TV in the Tri-State area can contact me for information."

Johnnie D., c/o TransPitt, Box 59406, Pittsburgh, PA 15210

JENNIFER BARTON (E. MA) 7/85

MWM, 6'4", 205, brown hair, blue eyes, sensitive, caring.

Enjoys biking, music, video, basketball, some tennis, feeling & looking beautiful (hopefully).

"I would like to meet someone in the Boston area who is interested in fashion, and could help me with clothes, makeup, etc (TV, TS, or F). I will answer all mail."

Ms Jennifer Barton, Box 622, Allston, MA 02134

ROSALIND HART (NM) 7/85

Member: Tiffany, GGA

MM hetero TV, mid-50's (but appear younger). Highly educated and intelligent professional. Non-smoker.

Interests: Loves to wear pretty lingerie, girdles, nylons, high heels, makeup, etc.

"I'm relatively uninhibited under proper circumstances. Married at present, but wife doesn't really approve. I travel occasionally. Seeking TVs or understanding female friends with similar or compatible interests."

Rosalind H. (NM-0768)

MELISSA FOSTER (S. CA) 6/85

SWM TV, 35, 5'10", 168.

Interests: Traveling, sports, dancing, & having social get-togethers.

"I want to meet other TVs & TSs, couples and singles for friendship and lasting relationships. I travel around the country and love being able to stop and visit friends."

Melissa Foster, Box 816, Lakewood, CA 90714

CARLA E. GOLDSNIDER (CT) 6/85

SWM hetero TV, 53, 5'10", quiet, not pushy, very understanding.

"I love to crossdress. Would like to meet TVs and females for girl talk and develop friendships. Also like to go out in public dressed - told I pass easily. I'm single and live alone in a small house in the country."

Carla E. Goldsnider, 3741 South St., Coventry, CT 06238

ARLENE L. (SE NY) 7/85

Member: GGA, Tri Ess

Interests: The sciences in general; in particular astronomy and geology.

"I'm looking forward to correspondence and possible future meetings with understanding persons."

Arlene L. (NY-0758)

CINDY (AZ) 7/85

34, 6', 150, blond hair, good looking.

Interests: Music, reading, chess, golf, or just plain fun.

"No drugs!"

Cindy (AZ-0767)

Diantha Kay (VT-0214)

Wendy Jackson (AL-0794)

DIANTHA KAY (VT) 7/85

Member: Tiffany, TV Entertainers, TAM

Gender Community advocate; interested in developing close lasting friendships. Serious, sincere, supportive, fun loving. Enjoy life, people, open sharing dialogue, resisting adulthood, and above all simply being me. Avid correspondent. Many interests. M to F gender person, Sagittarian, 12-12-37, Nordic origins, fair, blonde, blue eyes, 5'11", 160.

D. Kay, Box 264, Vergennes, VT 05491

JUDITH ANNE THOMPSON (MA) 5/85

Widowed WM crossdresser, 63, 175, intelligent, honest and retired. Good listener.

Interests: Likes nature photography, hiking, gardening, & good music.

"I would like contact with crossdressers in SE MA area for companionship, and like interests."

Judith T. (MA-0733)

BOBBIE B. (SE MA) 8/85

Bi WM, 5'6", 130, 49, average to good looks.

"I enjoy crossdressing from wig to heels. Would like to meet other bi or gay TVs or TSs to meet and enjoy each other's company. I live on the South Shore."

Bobbie B. (MA-0461)

ANGELIQUE G. BRUMMELL (S CA) 7/85

SWM hetero TV, 5'11", 145, semi-dark complexion, athletic, sensitive, highly emotional, brown hair, blue eyes, very strong, honest, caring & genuine.

Interests: Jazzercise, inflatable boating, playing with children, cuddling animals, & helping people. Loves feeling & being pretty.

"I am very spiritual, and it is good to know that there are others with whom I can identify with on this level in this world."

Grant B. Hooker, 1001 Boulard Ave, A-1, Carpenteria, CA 93013

REBECCA REDSING (N CA) 8/85

Member: GGA

Travels extensively and enjoys meeting others with similar interests. Loves to spend quiet evenings in a negligee reading and listening to music, or engaging in light conversation. Wishes to correspond with others interested in fashions, make-up, and the enhancement of the feminine image.

Rebecca R. (CA-0778)

AUDREY M (Eastern MA) 8/85

MWM bi-TV, 50, 155, 5'10, nice, intelligent, well adjusted, sense of humor. Enjoys current events, music, sailing, photography, woodworking. Would like to have a few TV friends for casual get-togethers; freedom limited to weekdays 9-6.

Neil Moses, Box 66, Allston, MA 02134

WENDY JACKSON (AL) 9/85

MWM TV, 5'10", 175, early 40's. Married to an understanding woman who helps with makeup, clothes, and wigs.

Interests: Tennis, woodworking, all things feminine.

"I'm interested in contacting other TVs, and sharing experiences."

Wendy J. (AL-0794)

JACKIE MCDONALD (NH) 8/85

Member: Tiffany

Participant: Tiffany's P-town Outing, Tiffany WSG Outing, Dewhurst's Poconos Weekend

MWM cross-dresser, 40ish, 6'1", 180, reasonably attractive.

Interests: Swimming, needlework, woodwork, micro computers. Loves shopping, long walks, & Koffee Klatching. Also, is very interested in helping people.

"I reside in S. NH, & would like to meet individuals with similar interests."

Jackie McDonald, c/o Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778

JUDY KAYE (MN) 6/85

Married, fantasy crossdresser, 45, 5'11", 240.

Interests: Skiing, photography (experienced).

"I would like to meet others like myself, or active crossdressers - just talk and friendship."

Judy Kaye, Box 16163, St Paul, MN 55116

Linda Carson (OH-0793)

Karen Ann N. (ME-0787)

LINDA CARSON (OH) 8/85
Member: Paradise Club
Participant: 'Be All You Can Be' W/E
MWM, 5'8", 160, 49.
Interests: Photography, travel, shopping.
"I'm not very fast at answering correspondence."
Linda Carson, Box 86, Dayton, OH 45409

LYNDA D. (SE NY) 8/85
MWM TV, 32, 6'1", discreet.
"I'm interested in meeting other TVs and understanding females for help and friendship. If sensible and discreet, I will answer all letters."
Lynda D. (NY-0775)

PAULA KAY (NH) 8/85
33, 6', 170, brown hair, hazel eyes.
Interests: Warm weather fishing, hunting, camping, the ocean, sexy lingerie, and getting out of the closet.
"I am down to earth, easy to get along with, and quiet. I am possibly bi, feminine when dressed, and want to meet other TVs for dressing together. Would also like to meet females and couples."
Paula Kay (NH-0596)

ROBIN G. (PA) 8/85
MWM, tall, attractive TV, 38, often passable.
Interests: Spectator sports, fashionable dressing, animals, femininity, travel.
"I'm interested in meeting other passable TVs or TSs in the Phila. NYC, or NJ area for mutual fun and companionship. Am caring, careful, discrete, and sincere. Photo, phone appreciated."
Robin G (PA-0781)

CHERYL C. (WA) 7/85
Member: Tri Ess
Hetero TV, 40, 5'5", employed full time as an alcoholism counselor.
"I would like to correspond with all- and will reply to all letters. I am new, just out of the closet, and would like to hear from everyone."
Cheryl C. (WA-0777)

WILMA JANE PETERS (N. NY) 6/85
"I would like to have a dialogue with other TVs regarding our interests and exchange experiences. I love all the feminine things of life like cooking, sewing, and other household duties."
Wilma Jane Peters, Box 5361, Albany, NY 12205

KAREN ANN N. (ME) 8/85
Member: Tiffany
Participant: Tiffany's P-town Outing
MWM hetero cross-dresser (since adolescence), 5'4", 130, friendly, happy, enjoys people, places, & things.
Interests: Photography, walking, clothes, dining out, shopping, nature.
"I would enjoy corresponding and exchanging photos with other crossdressers. I would also enjoy discreet shopping trips and dining out while dressed."
Karen Ann N (ME-0787)

FRANCINE G. (S. CA) 8/85
Member: Alpha Chapter Tri Ess
Single hetero male - oriental extraction, 5'8", 123, 30.
Interests: Painting, drawing, classical music (listening), audio, health & nutrition, photography, stage & women's make-up.
"The complete task of being a woman, emotionally and mentally as well as physically, absorbs me. I have made wonderful new friends since 'coming out' in May of '85, and hope to make many more. Have fairly good appearance for a beginner."
Francine G. (CA-0789)

MICHELLE H. (E. MA) 7/85
M-F TS, 5'9", 145, 28, attractive.

Interested in creating androgynous lifestyle, explaining all aspects of gender identity.

"I would love to hear from all. I'm particularly interested in hearing from those who lead or have led a gay lifestyle, but cross-dress, and think they might be transsexual."

Michelle H (MA-0576)

Holly Cross (MA-0379)

HOLLY CROSS (MA) 7/85
Tiffany Keyholder member

Participant Tiffany's P-town Weekend, Lee Brewster's P-town Weekend

SWM TV, 60, size 22 tall. Is a radio ham, and classical music buff. Enjoys cooking (not well), sewing, snorkeling, walking the dog, and chasing clothing markdowns. "I'm looking for friends to meet when I'm in Orange County CA. I'd also be glad to talk by phone."

Holly Cross, c/o Box 19, Wayland MA 01778

DONNA C. (CT) 8/85
"I'm interested in cross-dressing, and meeting people to make new friends. Please be discreet in contacting me. All letters will be answered right away."

Mr. D. Clarke, P.O. Box 263, Ledyard, CT 06339

JONI HOLLAND (VT) 8/85
Married TV, 6'1", 165, 34, long brown hair, loves life, outgoing, but always busy.

Enjoys doing hair, yours or mine, running, canoeing, skiing, always in some way feminine at work or play.

"I'm interested in meeting and writing to TV-TS women in New England. Come on up and have your hair curled."

Joni H (VT-0781)

Camile Mc. (NY-0582)

CAMILE MC. (SE NY) 7/85
Member: Tiffany Club, Chi Delta Mu Tri-Ess

Hetero crossdresser, 72, 5'10", 164, methodist, widower. Honest, & security conscious. Doesn't drink, smoke, or gamble. Loves & enjoys people, and lives by the old-fashioned 'golden rule', and a strict moral code.

Enjoys crossdressing, & repairing things around the house. Loves C&W music, writes music & plays various instruments. Taught drumming.

"I'm a widower for 7 years, and would love to meet a nice woman who will accept me part time en femme, or better, as 'sister companion', and sometimes as male companion."

C.A.M. Mc., Box 207, Pelham, NY 10803

Barbara B. (NY-0258)

BARBARA B. (L.I. NY) 5/85
Member: NYC GGA, Chi Delta Mu

MWM TV, 45, 5'10", slim. Values trustworthiness, honesty, and dependability.

Interests: Fashion, music, dancing, parties, and pen pals.

"I love women and their femininity. I also enjoy being helpful to new sisters and old alike."

Barbara B. (NY-0258)

BETTE J. (N TX) 7/85
Member: Tiffany, GGA, Tri Ess

Participant: Tiffany P-town '85

MWM hetero TV, 5'9", 50, size 18. Can pass. Never met a stranger.

Enjoys parties, and being a girl.

"I've dressed forever, and now I'm out of the closet. I travel extensively, and would like to meet other TV girls. Would especially like to help and advise those who are just starting to come out."

Bette J. (MA-0543)

LYNN D. (WA) 8/85
Member: Emerald City-GGA

MWM, 5'9", 38. Wife knows but doesn't really accept.

Interests: Scuba diving, sports cars.

"I enjoy a quiet day just being myself - feeling whole!"

Lynn D. (WA-0797)

Jamie West (HI-0786)

Charlene Byrd (TX-0586)

JAMIE WEST (HI) 8/85

Hetero TV, 5'10", 36, enjoys photography, flying, and diving.

"My greatest joy is dressing in my 'girly' things. Please write and swap photos."

Jamie West, Box 1552, Wahiawa, Hawaii 96786

CAROLE TOWNSEND (SE MA) 9/85

Member: Tiffany

Married hetero TV, 40ish, passable with super effort.

Interests: Painting, drawing, model making, reading science fiction, and, of course, cross-dressing.

"I would like to hear from anyone with similar interests."

Carole Townsend, c/o P.O. Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778

LAURA H. (TX) 9/85

Member: Boulton & Park Cultural Society

MWM lifelong TV, 6', 160, 40, just sneaking out of the closet.

Interests: Skiing, camping, woodworking, hunting.

"I would like to hear from other TVs in the San Antonio area."

Laura H. (TX-0798)

JACKIE O. (MO) 9/85

Member: GGA

Discreet TV, 5'10", 170, 46, brown hair.

Enjoys makeup, & dressing.

"Would like to get out of the closet - one time. Would also like to meet other discreet TVs."

Jackie O (MO-0608)

JOHN R. (MN) 7/85

Divorced man, 6', 200, mid-50's, good health, active, businessman, well-travelled, strong traditionalist, cosmopolitan.

" 'm interested in meeting, knowing, a highly feminine TS or TV, for social contact and possibly an enduring relationship."

John R. (MN-0770)

SAMANTHA WALLS (TX) 7/85

Member: Chi Chapter Tri Ess

Participant: DREAM, 'Be All You Want To Be' W/E

MWM TV, 45, 5'11", 170, size 18.

"I'm interested in correspondance, and meeting other TVs (and their wives) in the north Texas area."

Samantha Walls, #158, 5551 Parker Henderson Rd, Fort Worth, TX 76119

CHARLENE BYRD (TX) 8/85

Member: Tiffany Club, GGA, Tri Ess, ETVC

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Tri Ess Holiday En Femme

Awards: Runner-up Miss ETVC '85

5'8", 145, married, occasionally passible. Enjoys hugs, people, singing, acting, quiet music, cooking, fixing things.

"I'm a people person, warm, caring, honest and non-judgmental. I'm interested in going out with other crossdressers, and will answer all."

Charlene Byrd, 9219 Anderson Mill Rd # 1031, Austin, TX 78729-4560 (512) 250-8674

WENDY R. (N CA) 9/85

Member: GGA

Awards: 1st Runner-up "Miss U. Cincinnati"

MWM, bi, 6'1", 160, 37, passes in public. Supportive wife, formerly on stage, past president of U.C. Gay Society.

Interests: Photography (still & video), poetry, sci-fi, jewelry.

Enjoys partying, all kinds of music, going out, & fashion from the exotic to sedate.

Wendy R. (CA-0805)

MARCIA G (MA) 10/85

MWM hetero TV, 41, dark, 5'7", 170, sensitive.

Interests: Likes dressing, and all things feminine. Enjoys the company of TVs.

"I'm interested in many different areas, and will answer all."

Marcia G (MA-0622)

Danielle B. (AL CAN)

DANIELLE B. (AL Can) 8/85

Member: Aiberta TV-TS Contact Club (founder), FACT

Bi TV, 5'6", 140, physically fit, brown hair (sometimes blonde), brown eyes. Caring, sincere, often to the point of self sacrifice.

Interests: Drawing, painting, guitar, old rock n' roll, motorcycles, martial arts, femininity.

"My interests are varied & diverse, & sometimes draw me away from my TV interests. Hard to find time for both 'David' & Danielle."

Danielle, Box 4667, Station C, Calgary, AL T2T 5P1 Canada

KATHY H. (MI) 10/85

Interests: Sports. Returning to school to become a registered nurse.

"I'm a large woman, 6'4", 200 lbs. Would like to pass, but very insecure. I want to learn from sisters what every girl should know."

Kathy H (MI-0829)

Terri Scott (MI-0476)

TERRI SCOTT (MI) 10/85

Member: Crossroads

Tall, attractive, fun loving lady.

Interests: Fashion,corresponding with others of similar interests, shopping, writing articles and thoughts about being a feminine person.

Terri Scott, Box 728, Birmingham, MI 48012

MARCIE P. (RI) 9/85

MWM, 5'5", 185, 29.

Interests: Scuba diving, photography, boating, sci-fi books and fine art of cross-dressing.

"I've been told I'm passable, but haven't tried yet. Looking for 'sisters' in my general area with similar interests, but will answer all. Come on girls, let's be friends!"

Marcie P. (RI)

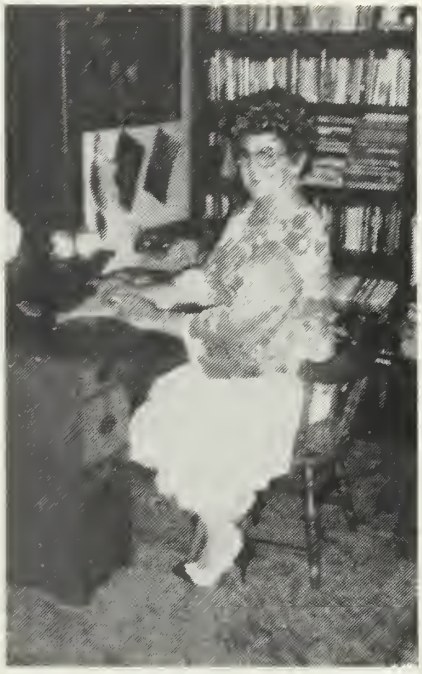
JACKIE C. (E MA) 9/85

SWM, 5'8", 175, 36, quiet, easy going.

Interests: Tennis, good movies, aerobics, wrestling, running.

"Looking for a non-smoker who is exercise oriented to dress with."

Jackie C. (MA-0799)



Trenna Marie Mc. (NY-0623)

TRENNA MARIE MC (W. NY) 10/85

Member: Tri Ess, Eon

Married Hetero cross-dresser with supportive wife. 51, 5'8", 185.

"I love dressing and being out in public, but am not able to get out in my area. Will answer all that care to correspond."

Trenna Mc (NY-0623)

JERI F. (N NH) 9/85

Single, 5'10", 166, 38, lives conservative rural lifestyle.

Interests: Nylons, high heels, makeup, rubber lingerie, wigs, lipstick & everything feminine.

"Searching for a compassionate female-TV-TS who can understand the delights of feminine clothing, and who is very open and willing to be flexible to make a relationship work."

Jeri F. (NH-0820)

SANDY JOHNSON (CT) 8/85

Hetero life-long crossdresser, 5'11", 200, 24, brown hair, brown eyes, has nice legs, married.

Interests: Music, going for walks, dancing, being myself, silk dresses and nylons and heels.

"I'm interested in sharing my experiences with others. I would like to meet others in the Hartford CT area for friendly conversation and support. I'll answer all sincere replies."

Sandy J. (CT-0791)

Joan Bartlett (MA-0138)

Gloria Wright (IL-0613)

MS JOAN ELIZABETH B (NE MA) 10/85
MWM TV, 30, 5'8", 150.
Interests: Outdoor activities in all seasons of the year, skiing, scuba diving, photography.
"I would like to meet others that can share in my interests, would like to meet another married couple in my area for friendship."
Joan B (MA-0138)

ANGEL N. (E MA) 9/85
Member: Tiffany
Female-to-male TS, 5'4", 31, working on Masters in psychology. Spontaneous, funloving, athletic.
Interests: Psychology, reading, yoga, beach.
Angel N. (MA-0804)

TINA LOUISE L. (NJ) 10/85
Member: Phi Chapter
"I want to enjoy being as feminine as I can, and being with others who feel the same."
Tina Louise L. (NJ-0837)

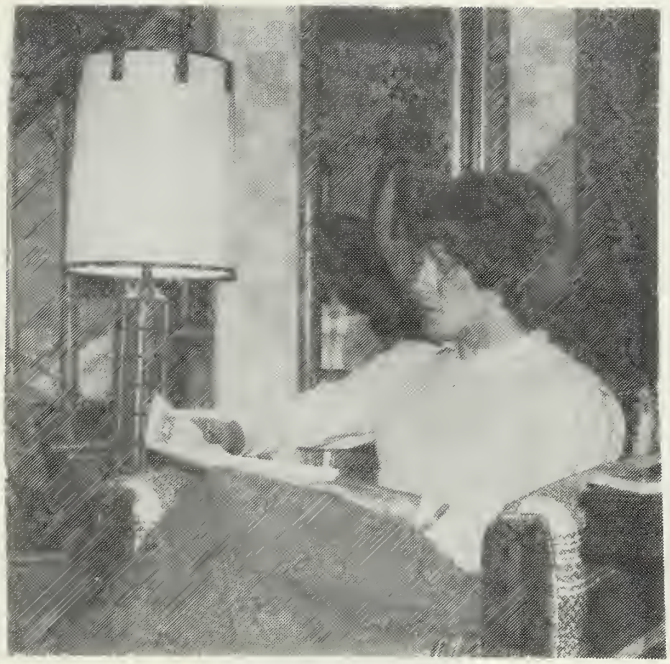
LINDA LEE ATHIE (WI) 9/85
Member: GGA
TS oriented, 5'7", 176, 35, blue eyes.
"I would like to write to any TS or TV that would9 like to build a friendship by mail only. I do not desire any personal meetings and am not interested in having anyone looking for fun times or thrills. I would like to build friendships. I will answer all letters."
Linda A. (WI-0529)

JENNIFER B (MA) 10/85
Member: Tiffany, Tri Ess
Participant: Lee Brewster's Outing
5'6", 120, medium length black hair, passable.
Interests: cooking, bowling, embroidery, dancing, theatre, going out dressed.
"The body can't be whole unless the feminine is expressed. Let's go out together."
Jennifer B (MA-0479)

GLORIA WRIGHT (IL) 10/85
Member: Windy City Chapter GGA, Chi Chapter Tri Ess
Awards: 1st Runner-Up 'Miss Windy City '84
Hetero TV, 33, 5'3", passable, fun-loving.
Interests: Singing as a female, dancing, jogging, karate, reading, photography.
"I love correspondance and meeting other TVs and TSs, and am understanding of all lifestyles."
Gloria Wright, Box 172, Gurnee, IL 60031

CYNTHIA CRANE (S.E. MA) 10/85
MWM hetero cross-dresser, 40, 6', sensitive and discrete.
Interests: computers, telecommunications, video tape, music, TV fantasies & bondage, tight clothing and correspondence with others of like interests. "I Love being dressed in nylon, satin, and leather. I would like to exchange books, fantasies, and thoughts about enforced cross-dressing."
(Cynthia C MA-0843)

Valerie Vincent (MA-0276)



Cindy V. (CT -0381)

VALERIE VINCENT (E MA) 9/85
Member: Tiffany
MWM TV, 5'10", 150, 43. Wears fingernails over 1" long, has picture album, makes convincingly attractive woman. Wants to be a professional Female Impersonator.
Loves dressing up, wearing exotic makeup, ultra femme clothes, and having the woman in me captured on film.
"I am now more TV free than ever before, but not as free as I will be next year. I am working toward a goal of having the courage to go into a club and entertain, and also go out in public whenever I wish."
Valerie V. (MA-0276)

SYLVIA C. (MA) 9/85
Member: Tri Ess
MWM, 6'2", grey hair, blue eyes, passable at times. Very serious aboutcross-dressing. Interested in meeting other TVs as schedule permits.
"I enjoy being a well-dressed lady, lingerie, nylons, high heels, etc. Would enjoy contacts in the Brockton MA area."
Sylvia C. (MA-0189)

AMANDA J. (CT) 10/85
Member: Tiffany, Tri Ess, GGA
MWM hetero TV, 40's, 5'9".
Interests: Music, museums, theatre, old cars, and economics.
"I am a pleasant, passable, prim and proper when dressed. Prefer one-on-one situations rather than large gatherings."
Amanda J. (CT-0290)

SUSAN T. (S. CA) 10/85
Member: Neutral Corner, Tri-Ess, GGA
Interests: Dressing, Fashion, lingerie, hiking, skiing, reading, music.
"Want more contacts in San Diego area. Am active in local TV/TS group 'the Neutral Corner', and will answer all."
W. Thomas, Box 99732, San Diego, CA 92109

DARLENE S. ROSS (CT) 10/85
MWM, 50s, 5'8", 165, shy.
Interests: Photography, sports, travel, all kinds of music, reading, especially getting completely dressed.
"I'm interested in communicating with other TVs or understanding females to help me to come out of the closet and advise me as to my difficulties in becoming the woman I would like to become."
Ms Darlene S. Ross, Suite 114, 167 Cherry St, Box 3894, Milford, CT 06460

SUSAN T. (S. CA) 10/85
Member: Tri Ess, GGA, Neutral Corner
Interests: Dressing, fashion, lingerie, hiking, skiing, reading, music.
"I want more contacts in San Diego area. Am active in local TV/TS group, the Neutral Corner', and wll answer all."
W. Thomas, Box 99732, San Diego, CA 92109

CINDY VIOLETTE (CT) 9/85
Member: GGA, Tri Ess, Crossroads, the Network
WM hetero TV, 29, 5'8", 145. Started electrolysis, soon to be taking hormones.
Interests: Photography, good food, movies, music, walks on deserted beaches, hiking.
"At times I'm not quick to answer a letter because of the number of people I do correspond with, but will answer A.S.A.P., depending on urgency of letter."
Cindy violette, Box 14674, Hartford, CT 06114

SHERRY LORRAINE (MA) 10/85
Member: Tiffany
Participant: Tiffany's P-town Outing, Tiffany WSG Outing, Lee Brewster's P-town Outing
MWM, 39, red hair, blue eyes, 5'9" in heels, fair complexion and an easy going personality.
Interests: Motorcycle touring, skiing, computers, walks along the ocean, and dancing.
"I enjoy passing in public, making new friends, traveling, shopping and girl to girl chats on make-up, dress and mannerisms."
Sherry Lorraine, c/o Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778

ROBIN PEARCE (NB) 9/85
Member: Tri Ess
I'm interested in shopping, and expressing my feminine side.
Robin P. (NB-0796)

Cheryl Ann Costa (NY-0669)

Siobhan D. (MA-0605)

CHERYL ANN C. (W.NY) 1/86

Member: Tiffany, Butterfly, Eon

Participant: Joyce Dewhurst Poconos Outing, Tiffany WSG Outing

Awards: 'Miss Poconos '85'

MWM TV, 33, lots of fun at a party.

Interests: Photography, public speaking, computers, Dungeons & Dragons, trivial pursuit.

"I especially like to meet persons who are into transgender activism, public speaking, club organizing, etc."

Cheryl Ann C., c/o Box 7161, Endicott, NY 13760

DAWN H. (CT) 11/85

Participant: Fantasia Fair

SW M-F TS, 39, 5'10", 145.

Interests: Reading, boating, water skiing, outdoors, shopping.

"I am interested in learning how to become a total woman. Also interested in corresponding with others of like feelings in SE CT and RI."

JOANNA VON GLAHN (FL) 10/85

"I'm a post-op TS, interested in pho ography, and helping others. Would like to meet other TSs and TVs."

Joanna Von Glahn, 38 Davis Blvd #4, Tampa, FL 33606

RENEE' SLOCUM (N. NY) 12/84

SWM, 26, 5'11", 155, hetero crossdresser, college educated, shy but friendly, good sense of humor.

Interests: Enjoys music (R-n'-R) oldies), collecting antiques & anything old, tennis, ballet, cooking, elegant private parties, dressing up & being feminine.

"I would like to meet and/or corr spond with other crossdressers and women. Crossdressing for 14 years and would eventually like to form a support group/club to serve the Finger Lakes area."

Renee' Slocum (NY-0651)

EILEEN CLAFLIN (OH) 11/85

MWM, hetero TV, 6', 35, passable on occasion. Loves kids, kittens, and being Eileen. Enjoys meetings and correspondence, music, photography & shopping.

"Would like to make contact with other sisters to share experiences, viewpoints and understanding."

Eileen C. (OH-0486)

SIOBHAN DONOVAN (MA) 12/85

Member: Tiffany

Participant: Tiffany's P-town Outing, Tiffany WSG Outing

MWM, 35, 6'2", 240, life long cross-dresser. Member Tiffany Board of Directors, Tapestry Staff.

Interests: C.B. radio, computers, graphic arts, sewing, cooking, cross-dressing (of course), and helping others.

Siobhan Donovan, c/o Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778

REBECCA SUZANNE C (MA) 11/85

Member: Tiffany Club

DWM, 50s, 6', long-time crossdresser

Enjoys golf, cooking, personal computing, and of course, being Suzanne.

"I am totally addicted to the joys of cross-dressing. I have an easy going personality and wish to establish friendship with other girls so we may share the joys and frustrations of our wonderful feminine world. I would like to hear from you.

Suzanne C (MA-0295)

Veronica Jean Brown (MA-0632)

Shirley K. (CO-0493)

VERONICA JEAN BROWN (W. MA) 11/85

Member: Tiffany, GGA, XX Club

Post-op female TS, 40.

Interested in photography and computers. Seeking penpals with other TSs.

"I now have what I've always wanted and there can be no more excuses."

Veronica Brown, Box 80458, Forest Park Stn., Springfield, MA 01138

JENNIFER WIXON (MN) 9/85

Member: Tiffany, GGA

Long-time TV, 5'11", large but shrinking.

Interests: Chess, books, travel -- in fact, games, writing, and art in general.

"Still trying to find out what I am, and what my potential may be. Looking to talk, to listen -- to learn."

Jennifer Wixon, Box 19455, Minneapolis, MN 55419

DIANE O. (NC) 10/85

Member: GGA

"I enjoy Traveling. I dress from 2 to 3 times a month and enjoy meeting others to discuss the joys of cross-dressing. Would like to meet others in my area to go out with. I have a very nice wardrobe and enjoy looking my best for the right person."

Diane, Box 1252, Garner, NC 27529

SHIRLEY KAY KNIGHT (CO) 11/85

Member: Denver GIC

Participant: Tiffany's P-town Outing, GGA Spring Fling

SWM TV, 43, 5'8", friendly, fun, and feminine.

Interests: Traveling, dancing, sewing, and going out in public dressed.

"I am interested in meeting other TVs, particularly in the Rocky Mountain region."

Shirley K. Knight, Box 1042, Pueblo, CO 81002

LAURA LYONNS (QUE CAN) 10/85

Member: TAMS

"I'm a loving TS, slowly shedding the 'Victor' portion of my Victor/Victoria personality. My interests include media, dance, and female impersonation. This 'Tootsie' would also like to roll with any TVs who can pass as well as Dustin Hoffman's 'Dorothy Michaels'."

Laura Lyonns, c/o TAMS, Box 1164, Station H, Montreal, QUE CAN H3G 2N1

SARABETH (SALLY) W. (NB) 10/85

Interests: Architecture, classical music, TV/TS fiction and fantasy and Big Red Football, and gymnastics.

"Subscribing to the Tapestry is probably as far out of the closet as I will ever be, but I would enjoy corresponding with other TVs who can help me understand myself."

Sarabeth W. (NB-0833)

Terri Downs (NV-0406)

TERRI DOWNS (NV) 11/85

Member: GGA, Tri Ess, Shangri-La

Participant: Shangri-La, DREAM

Auburn hair, grey eyes, 5'11",size 16/18.

Interests: Flying, ham radio, country & string music. Is a book collector, a history buff, and into solar energy.

"I love to dress, attend dress-up parties, and meet other TV/TS girls. Will escort around Vegas, and will andwer all. Picture is appreciated, but not necessary."

Terri Downs, Box 4116, N. Las Vegas, NV 89030-0116

Laura Covington (CA-0486)

Ellen S. (OR-0382)

LAURA R. COVINGTON (CA) 11/85

Member: GGA, Tri Ess, Shangri-La

MBM, hetero, 36, 5'8", attractive, pleasant, understanding.

"I'm interested in contacting TVs and women. I have many interests, and will answer all."

Laura R. Covington, Box 10431,, Oakland, CA 94610

SARA ANN HARRIS (W. NY) 11/85

Member: EON

Pre TS, 29, 5'9", 135, brown eyes, brown hair. Slim, feminine, attractive, professional, pleasant young lady. Have worked and lived full time as a woman since mid '84.

Interests: Fashion modeling, travel, shopping, dining out, live entertainment, horse back riding, tennis, skiing, bicycling, and just being with family and friends.

"I would like to meet other TSs, TVs, TGs and ladies who can accept my feminine personality, and willing to share the same pleasant, sensible interests and friendship."

Sara Ann H (NY-0853)

HELEN T. (NH) 11/85

Member: Tiffany

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Tiffany's P-town Outing, Tiffany WSG Outing

MWM TV, 47, 5'11". Tiffany Board of Directors. Hopes to make social contacts within the TV-TS Community.

Helen T., c/o Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778

PAULA RIORDAN (MA) 10/85

Member: Tiffany

Participant: Fantasia Fair

MWM hetero TV, 50s, 5'8", 160, soft spoken, easy going, friendly.

Interests: History, philosophy, religion, cosmetology, fashion, cooking and ballet.

"I am happy being 'Paula', and I enjoy conversation & correspondence with friends I have met through the Tiffany Club and the Tapestry. Although opportunities are limited, I pass fairly well, & enjoy going out with friends."

Paula Riordan, c/o Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778

ELLEN S (OR) 10/85

Member: NWGA GGA

Participant: DREAM, GGA Convention-Chicago, Pantaro Dunes

Awards: Grand Dame DREAM '82

Hetero TV, 50s, married with 3 children. All know of Ellen and approve.

Interests: Travel, music (big band era), has large old phonograph collection.

"I would like to correspond with any sisters and promise to answer all letters. Would like to visit any sisters visiting the Portland or NW area."

Ellen S, c/o NWGA, Box 4928, Portland, OR 97208-4928

DIANNE K. (S. CA) 11/85

Member: GGA

Interests: Photography, trains & streetcars, writing, making new friends, & dressing up.

"I am 35, 5'9", 140, married, and my wife encourages my crossdressing. I've just made my first attempts at going out and find it quite thrilling. I want to correspond, exchange photos and meet other TVs."

Dianne K. (CA-0846)

Geri Lynn (MI-0668)

RENEE C. (N. NY) 11/85
Member: TV Entertainers, Tiffany Club
Participant: Tiffany's Wives Support Group Outing
Happily married TV, 5'9", 150, passes at times.
Interests: wood working, photography.
"I am interested in helping TVs in the Albany NY area through my organization 'TV Entertainers', and will write back."
R. Chevalier, Box 13844, Albany, NY 12212

MARCIA JOHNSON (MA) 1/86
Attractive TV, 5'9", 140, 38
Interests: Jogging (finished Boston Marathon), golf, tennis, avid sports fan.
"I like to go shopping, party at clubs, and dine at fine restaurants. I'm friendly and outgoing. I would like to meet TVs, TSs who would enjoy dining out, dancing at clubs, and shopping at malls."
Marcia J (MA-0666)

NANCY ANN H. (TX) 1/86
Member: Bolton & Park, Tri Ess, GGA
Lifelong TV, 53, disabled veteran (Korea), retired. Would like to meet other girls. Am divorced and would like to find a GG who could accept me and love me. I am loving, homelike, a good girl, and a nice person. I value honesty and trustworthiness, and most of all loyalty."
Nancy Ann H (TX-0877)

RITA HAMILTON (MA) 11/85
Member: Tiffany
MWM hetero TV, 34, 6', 140, attractive, sincere, sensitive and adventurous.
Interests: Science, music, dance, cross-dressing, and having fun in high heels.
"I like going places cross-dressed where fun & interesting things are happening. I'd also like to meet people who are interested in the same."
Rita Hamilton, c/o Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778

CAROL TAYLOR (W. NY) 1/86
Member: Tiffany, EON
Participant: Tiffany WSG Outing
MWM, 41, 5'9", 160, blond, educated, friendly.
Interests: golf, skiing, boating, writing, but mostly being feminine.
"Married 3 years to an 'AAA' lady who accepts, appreciates, encourages and helps with my fem side. Knowledgeable in underfashions, figure dynamics and natural breast enhancement technique. My wife and I have a sincere interest in helping other TVs and couples progress rapidly through the predictable negative and confusing stages toward full appreciation of the feminine."
Carol Taylor, Box 115, Syracuse, NY 13201

GERI LYNN (MI) 1/86
Member: Crossroads
Bi-, MWM, sincere, discrete and honest.
Interests: Golf, military stories, music.
"I enjoy correspondence, all things feminine, photo sessions. Guarantee response to all. Want to meet new friends in Detroit area."
Geri L (MI-0668)

REGINA S (NYC NY) 10/85
Member: NYC GGA, TS Voice
Age 39, gender-troubled person. Has TS feelings but very novice at 'dressing'. Is very shy, serious and conservative by nature.
Interests: Classical and old-time pop music, history, literature, philosophy/theology.
"I want to greatly enhance my femininity and become more comfortable with myself and others."
Regina S (NY-0383)

JACQUELINE ANNE ALLEN (TX) 12/85
Member: Bolton & Parks, GGA
5'9", 155, 51.
Interests: Cars, kids, TV (both meanings), sports, Louis L'Amour.
"I am the world's worst correspondent, but do like to hear from you, if you don't mind an almost one way converstation."
Jacqueline Allen, Box 6948, San Antonio, TX 78209

Lauren O. (MN-0851)

Robin B. (FL-0611)

Christine S. (MA-0649)

ROBIN B. (FL) 10/85

MWM, 50's, 6'1", 160, lifelong cross-dresser.

Enjoys tennis, golf, sailing, racing sailboats, bridge, cross-dressing.

"I would like to meet similar people in the Orlando, Daytona Beach, Tampa area."

Robin B. (FL-0611)

CHRISTINA S. (E. MA) 12/85

Member: Tiffany

37, 5'11", 175. Married, life-long TV.

"I enjoy dressing and becoming a woman. I'm an accomplished cook, baker, photographer. I'd love to correspond with and possibly meet with other TVs to discuss mutual interests. Want to be out and among friends."

Christy S. (MA-0649)

LAUREN OLSEN (N CA) 11/85

Member: Tri Ess

MWM, 42, 5'11" 155, use own hair (no wigs), and married to an understanding wife for 15 years. Some college.

Interests: Fashion, arts, science, writing, the outdoors, music, and science fiction.

"I've been a hair stylist for over 10 years, and will answer questions about hair and make-up. I hope to make some friends with this listing."

Lauren Olsen, 903 Whitehall Lane, Redwood City, CA 94061

Josephine L. (Spain-0880)

JOSEPHINE LALANNE (SPAIN) 12/85

Member: Beaumont Society, A. Beaumont C., Tri Ess, Tiffany

Hetero TV, 5'7", 155, 50, blue eyes, brown hair, married.

Interests: Music, literature, theater, cookin, house keeping, photography and expressing feminine side.

"Seeking other TVs and understanding female friends for talk, meet, dress with. Also to crrespond and exchange photos and share experiences. Promise to reply to everybody."

Josephine L (Spain-0880) (include extra postage for overseas mail)

JANET DONALDSON (MD) 1/86

"I have tried, in the past few months, to climb out from the weight of years of solitary, furtive dressing into a more open life of friendship with people like me. I cannot be entirely open; I have not told my daughter yet. I am particularly struggling with the question of whether I want to be a woman or just look like a woman, and I would welcome correspondence with others who have struggled with that question. When not dressing, I haunt use book shops looking for the works of certain British women novelists of the twenties and thirties."

Janet D. (MD-0881)

DONNA P. (CT) 1/86

MWM, 43, 5'8", 200

Interests: Sailing, scuba diving, walking, plays, good movies, pops concerts, photograpy, dining out.

"I'm finally in a position to explore my feelings fully. My partner fully accepts and encourages me. I cannot pass, but I would like to hear from sisters who can help."

Donna P. (CT-0875)

SHARON MC. (SE MA) 12/85

Member: Tiffany

Participant: Fantasia Fair

WM TV, 30, 5'6", 140. Enjoys everything feminine.

"I'm shy but trying to be more open, especially with my cross-dressing. I'm a non-drinker. I'm looking for the help and support of the TV/TS Community to better understand myself, and would like to meet other TVs & TSs and women for shopping, travel, photos and fun."

Sharon Mc. (MA-0504)

Dolly B. (NH-0648)

DOLLY BAKER (NH) 12/85

Member: Tiffany

MWM, hetero, 60, 6'2", 195. Friendly, good sense of humor, trustworthy.

Interests: Feminine fashions, nature, art, music (classical, big band, jazz), photography.

"Trying desperately to come out without alienating a disapproving family. Want to develop kindred contacts throughout country for visits during my frequent business travels. Enjoy girl-talk, shopping. Correspondence is invited, welcomed and answered."

Ms Dolly Baker, Box 7425, S. Nashua, NH 03060

KAREN ANDERSON (MN) 1/86

40, male, 6", sense of humor, but can be serious, happily married for 19 years, 2 lovely daughters.

Interests: Clothes, sewing, history, research, racing, music, almost everything, very open to most interests.

"Would like to correspond with other couples with TV husband. Possible meeting after a time when we both are comfortable with each other."

Karen Anderson, Box 18052, W. St Paul, MN 55118

JOANN RENEE CONE (CO) 10/85
SWM bi-TS, 32, 5'8", 170. A writer and traveler.

Interests: Anything to do with womanhood and femininity. Reading, movies, dining out, cooking, loves good wine, good conversation, most music.

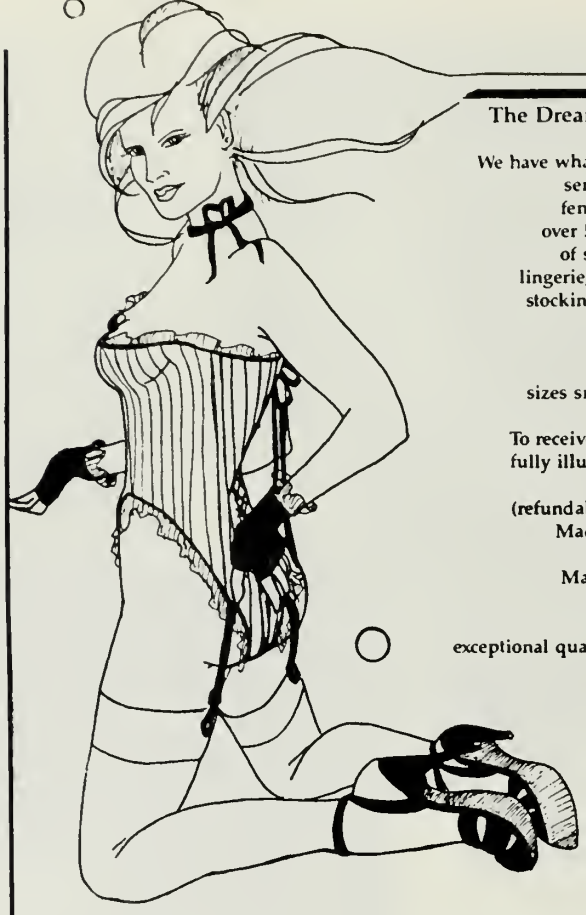
"I love to live life in my female role. In mind and soul I am 100% TS, and am working on the physical aspect of becoming the real me. I am a very warm and caring person who wants to meet new friends for a sincere friendship. I would love to meet any other TS or TV from the Denver area who enjoy being in public."

JoAnn Cone, Box 13183, Denver, CO 80201

JENNIFER A. (SE PA) 1/86
SWM, 36, 6', blue eyes, black hair.

Interests: Sewing, cross-dressing, attaining that special goal of maleness and femaleness.

Jennifer A (PA-0876)



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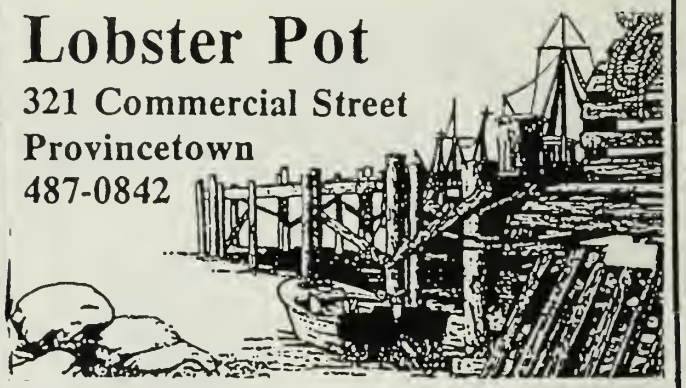

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